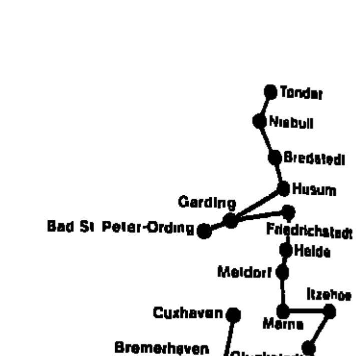
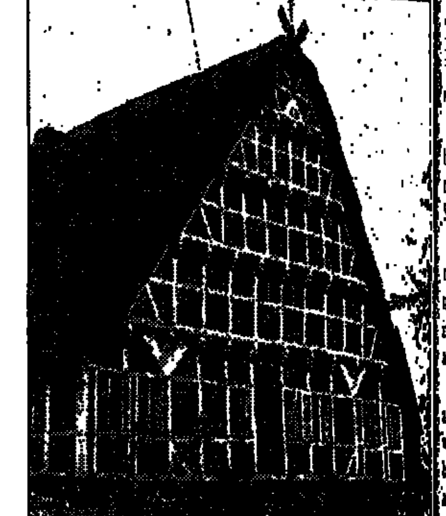
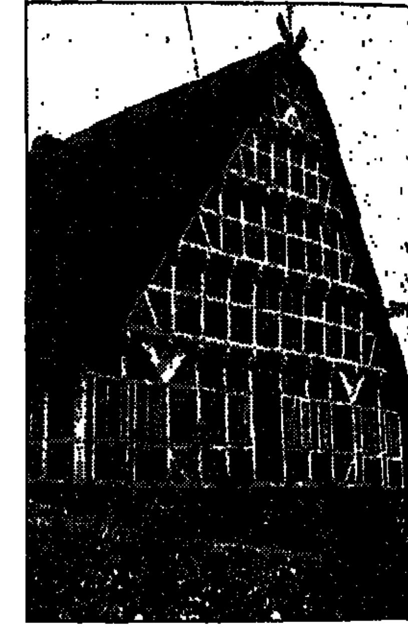
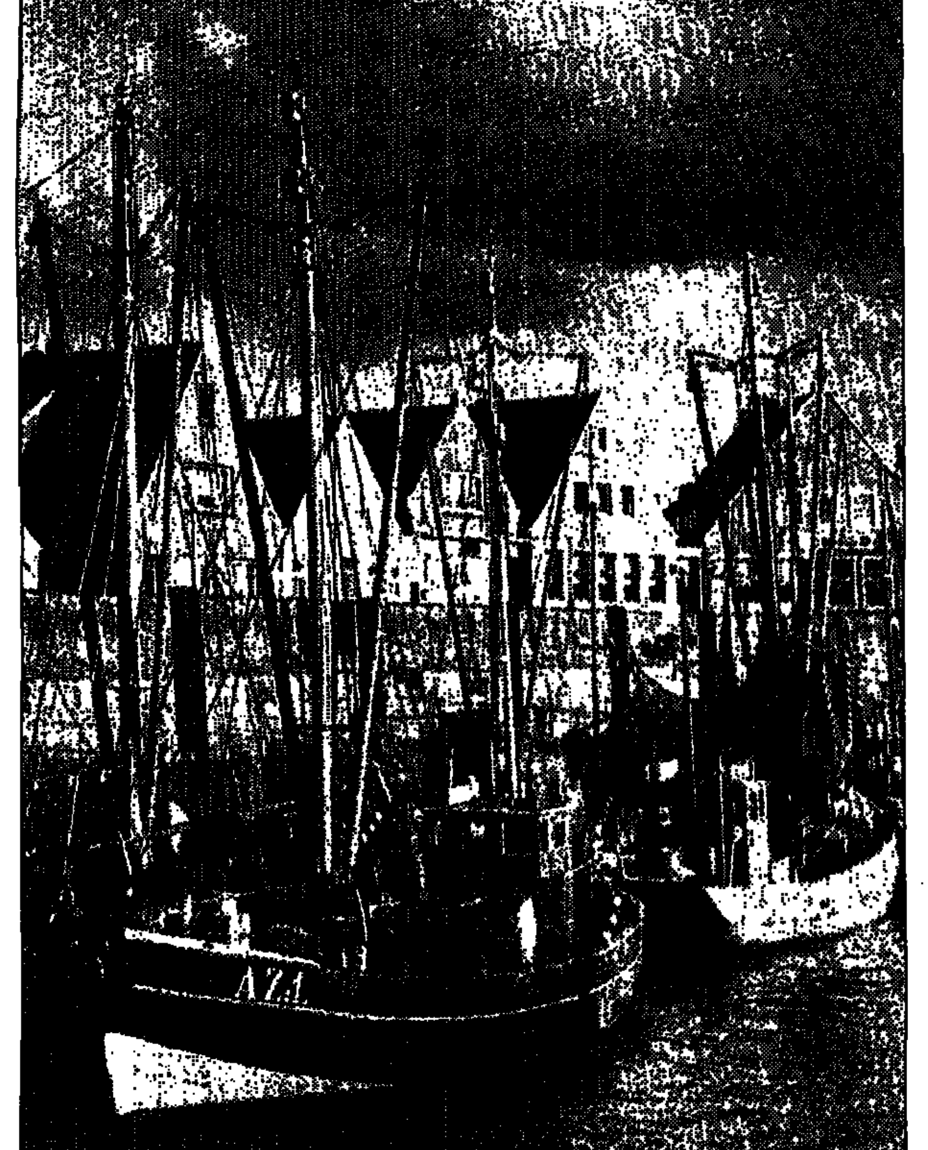
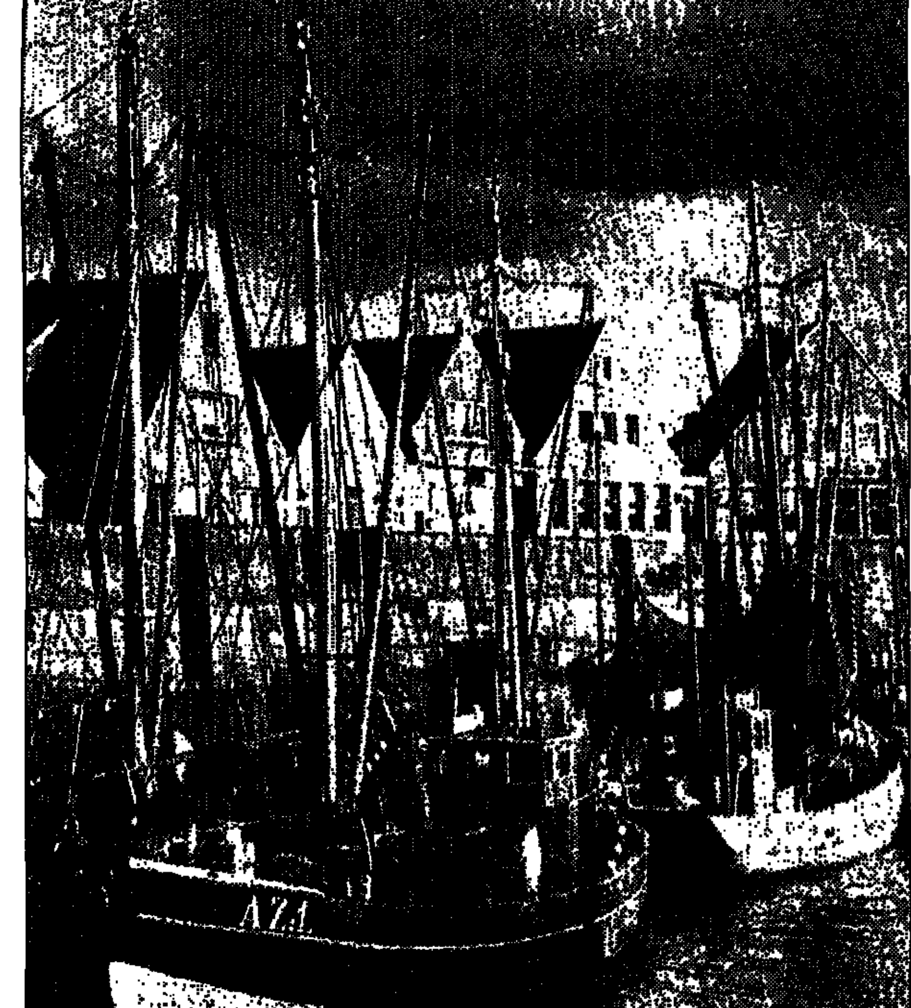
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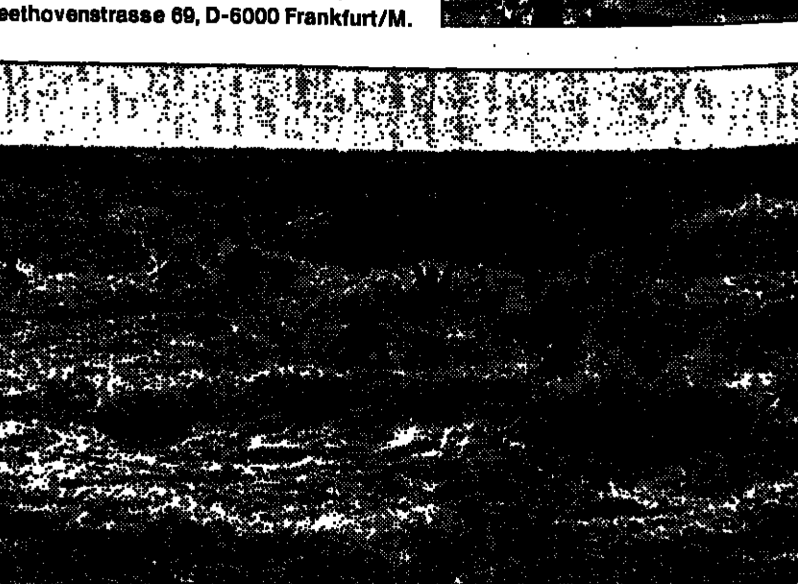
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1 Neuharlingersiel
2 A Frisian farmhouse in the Altes Land
3 Bremen
4 The North Sea



The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Hamburg, 15 January 1984
Twenty-third year - No. 1116 - By air

Shultz and Gromyko key to Stockholm talks

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The flags of 35 nations will be run up on the square in front of the old Parliament building in Stockholm this month when the largest conference Sweden has ever held is opened.

All European countries except Albania will be there. So will the United States and Canada. They will all be thinking about how the threat of war can be averted.

American Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko will meet for the first time since the breakdown of the Geneva missile talks and the Vienna troop-cut talks.

Can hopes of peace be fulfilled? The answer will depend to no small extent on the outcome of the meeting between the US Secretary of State and the Soviet Foreign Minister.

The Soviet Union has called on Nato to reach agreement on a non-aggression pact with the Warsaw Pact at the Stockholm conference.

The United States, Moscow suggests, ought to undertake, as the Soviet Union already has done, not to be the first to use nuclear weapons in a war.

Anything else, Mr Gromyko said in Moscow, would be hypocrisy.

The 400 delegates from East and West have three years in which to pave the way for the next Helsinki review conference in Vienna at the end of 1986.

The Stockholm conference will cost an estimated 285 million Swedish kronor, toward which Sweden will contribute 40 per cent.

This figure includes the cost of security arrangements, which are being shared by everyone.

Both Sweden as the host country and the Soviet Union as a major participant have warned, from differing motives, against overestimating the conference's importance.

Sweden has made the point because the conference is intended solely for the purpose of creating confidence, however that may be interpreted and evaluated.

The Soviet Union has noted that Stockholm cannot stand substitute for the Geneva and Vienna talks.

If fresh talks on arms limitation are to be held, then they will mainly be bilateral talks between the superpowers and not at the 35-nation conference table in the Swedish capital.

As for the public sessions in Stockholm, there could be a repetition of the first Helsinki conference where heads of delegations delivered speeches for domestic consumption.

Copies of their speeches were pressed on journalists who said at the time that the speeches might just as well have been made at home and mailed to the mass media because they were intended as mere propaganda.

There was much talk of peace but everyone meant something different: peace on his terms.

At Helsinki the Soviet Union signed a document guaranteeing specific human rights that led to civil rights groups being set up all over the USSR to monitor the Soviet performance on its Helsinki commitments.

Nearly all Soviet civil rights campaigners have since been arrested or banned in some way.

Nobel peace laureate Andrei Sakharov has been banned to Gorki. Nobel peace laureate Lech Walesa is treated like a leper by the Polish authorities.

In mass trials in the Baltic republics leading civil rights compaigners, especially Estonians, have just been given long prison sentences.

With reference to Sakharov the Stockholm committee for solidarity with Eastern Europe has noted that "only Nazi Germany dared to give a Nobel peace laurate (Carl von Ossietzky) the *same treatment as the Soviet Union gave* Sakharov."

That is not to say that Helsinki was not worth the price. Behind the scenes extremely important confidential talks were held, by President Ford and Mr Brezhnev, by Erich Honecker and Helmut Schmidt.

It was the first time the two German leaders had ever met. They embarked at long last on a sensible dialogue between the two German states after years of reciprocal tirades.

In talks one night between Helmut Schmidt and the Polish leader of the period, Edward Gierek, the groundwork was laid for reconciliation between West Germany and Poland.

Sweden as the host of the Stockholm confidence-building conference hopes that after disappointing review conference in Belgrade (1977-79) and Madrid (1981-83) the 1975 spirit of Helsinki will return.

For at least five years it made people feel the Cold War was over and a long period of peace was to follow.

This euphoria was not generated in the public sessions of the first European security conference in the Finnish capital; it was the result of confidential talks in the wings, as it were.

Swedish Foreign Minister Lennart Bodström has expressed his country's hopes of the conference as follows:

"Any new treaty must incorporate much stricter criteria than the 1975 Helsinki accords or the 1979 Belgrade or 1983 Madrid documents.

"If we arrive at decisions in Stockholm that create fresh confidence and security, they must be politically binding on all countries, militarily significant and fully controllable."

"That is sure to mean tough and protracted negotiations. Success will only be possible if the superpowers are interested in success, in reducing tension between them and in more security in Europe."

He said it was not up to a neutral country such as Sweden to intervene in the way pact member-countries in East and West set about solving their security policy problems.

But Sweden was interested in a balance of strength being struck between East and West, and preferably at the lowest possible level, without nuclear weapons.

Sweden was opposed to the deployment of new medium-range Nato missiles in Western Europe, but it also called on the Soviet Union to substantially reduce in number its existing missile potential and to reduce the size of its conventional forces too.

The superpowers must resume talks in Geneva. Sweden, like the UN, advocated merging the separate talks on intercontinental and medium-range missiles.

In this context Mr Bodström reiterated the 1983 Swedish proposal for a nuclear-free corridor through central Europe from Lübeck and along the intra-German border to the Austrian frontier.

A demilitarised belt of this kind would be the first step in creating greater confidence between East and West and reducing the risk of hostilities occurring at all.

The reactions to Sweden's corridor proposal in East and West had been encouraging, he said.

Sweden continued to be extremely keen on the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Scandinavia, especially as there were no nuclear weapons based there.

But it was of crucial importance that the zone was not just proclaimed but also respected by the nuclear powers. It could only be set up once such commitments were undertaken.

With this aim in view Sweden, as the conference host would try to ensure that binding assurances were negotiated on which the Vienna CSCE conference could base further progress at the end of 1986.

The present state of world affairs might look gloomy, but in the post-war period there had been times when the great powers were eyeball to eyeball as in the Berlin blockade in 1948 or when tanks faced each other in Berlin in 1969.

In the early 1970s Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik* had succeeded in ending this tension, thereby making possible the first Helsinki conference in 1975.

No-one wanted to cancel or waive the treaty situation in Germany.

America and China were eyeball to eyeball in Korea. The 1962 Cuban crisis looked threatening to the world at large. In other words, there was no reason for resignation or despair today or to let matters take their course.

Everyone was profoundly convinced that disarmament was possible and peace could be preserved, Mr Bodström told the Foreign Affairs Institute in Stockholm.

On a visit to Hiroshima last autumn he said there was no alternative to keep-

Continued on page 2

GENEVA
STOCKHOLM
BAS

(Cartoon: Mitropoulos/Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland)

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■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Bonn's scope for action not totally limited by the uncontrollable

Continuity in foreign policy has been broken, say the Opposition Social Democrats. They blame this on weak leadership by the Chancellor, Helmut Kohl.

Whether their allocation of blame is right or wrong, the fact is that the steadiness of Bonn's foreign policy is in doubt. And so is its capacity to influence world politics.

The gap between ideas and action is growing. One reason is that there are factors beyond anyone's control. But that is not the whole reason. Bonn does have itself to blame to some extent.

Bonn is not responsible for world political changes. It cannot influence the Reagan Administration's autocratic economic and military course.

And no one can fathom, by Western standards anyhow, the thought processes of the Kremlin, which don't even do much good for the USSR itself.

Likewise, Bonn cannot be blamed for the world-wide economic crisis. The consequences of the crisis are making it more difficult for the EEC countries to agree on urgent problems.

And this is where Bonn could do more. It cannot just stand around idly because a lot of factors beyond its controls are happening. Safeguarding both German and European interests means that all possible ways of exerting influence must be tried.

But Bonn has not being doing all that it could have. It has been concentrating too much on the issue of missiles deployment and its effect on domestic affairs.

This has, in turn, has affected its foreign policy performance. It must act to correct this.

Bonn's foreign policy is governed by an intricate system of conditions. This is a weakness. But it could be a strength if it thought more clearly and worked out a clear-cut policy plan.

Such a plan must be firmly rooted in the Western alliance. It should consider all Bonn's international partners. This would lead to a politically efficient plan and a credible one, too.

Balance and reconciliation must be the aim of the plan. That is the only way the Federal Republic can take an active part in safeguarding its interests.

And when the talk is of balance, the main balancing point must be with Washington and Paris, just as Adenauer saw it.

Inbalances within this triangle have always led to setbacks with corresponding effects on domestic affairs. The

General-Anzeiger

toppling of the late Chancellor Ludwig Erhard is still the best example.

Germany's policy became more closely tied to the US when Ronald Reagan became president. The consequences are plainly visible: Bonn's influence has waned almost everywhere.

It is verbally quite convincing in claiming that there is no break in foreign policy continuity. But its action has been restricted to *Deutschlandpolitik*, European policy and Europe's East-West policy — almost as in the early years of the republic.

Apart from the CSCE process and the coming Stockhold disarmament talks, Bonn's foreign policy has largely been limited to damage control.

The rest has been impotent waiting: in North-South policies, the dangerous Middle East situation, the Namibia issue, the UN and — not least — the safeguarding of interests in Asia. To make matters worse, there is the competitiveness of export industry is declining.

In this situation, the partnership with France must not be limited to solemn declarations. It must be active.

The French EEC presidency from the beginning of the year provides a fine opportunity.

Acting together, Paris and Bonn are a force to be reckoned with both in Europe and internationally.

This is a key for the effective promotion of the interests of both. They include, above all, getting the European unification process going again in a manner that would rally support and cooperation from the smaller member states. This has repeatedly helped overcome Europe's inertia in the past.

No European country can stand alone internationally. Britain's attempts to make use of the European Political Cooperation (EPC) in world politics was a failure.

The loss of European dynamism since Britain joined the Community has increasingly detracted from the EEC's international weight.

If Bonn and Paris cannot make the rest of the Community realise the importance of unity, they would have no choice but to proceed alone or with those who are still prepared to go along.

In this — possibly unavoidable — two-stage process Bonn would be faced with the difficult task of ensuring that the slower partners don't become uncoupled.

The cabinet has so far failed to give this aspect careful consideration and to hammer out a uniform policy.

If the European foundation can be consolidated, it should also be possible to promote European interests in relations with the USA, in East-West policies, in North-South relations and in the development of the world economy.

Only quick and consistent action in that direction can ensure the continuity of Germany's foreign policy — a continuity that could otherwise easily be forfeited.

Wolf J. Be...

(General-Anzeiger, 5 January 1984)

Lebanon offers Reagan only a Hobson's choice

Aboard the *USS Guam*, cruising at a safe distance off the Lebanese shore, comedian Bob Hope and half a dozen other entertainers tried to introduce the spirit of White Christmas and boost the morale of the American peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

But the theme of the show, "Thanks for the Memories," spread a mood of black humour among the marines, whose Beirut memories were anything but fond.

But Hope spectacularly changed the mood when he explained that "Beirut" was an Arabic word meaning "let's beat it."

The question as to whether the US marines and the French, Italian and British troops that make up the multinational peace force should stay in Beirut or "beat it" has become timely.

Italy and France have already answered it.

The Rome government has decided to pull out half of its 2,100 men because, as President Sandro Pertini puts it, "the Americans are in Beirut to defend Israel, not peace."

France has announced that it will withdraw 500 of its 1,750 men by the end of January.

US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has already come to realise that the Europeans are not prepared to back Washington's ill thought out Lebanon policy.

Only a few days before Christmas he announced the failure of his attempt to boost the Beirut peace force with units from other European states. He admitted that 15 governments that had been approached turned down the proposal.

Pressure is rising in France, Britain and Italy to pull out of the Lebanese mire while there is still time.

In the United States, too, President

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Reagan is being increasingly urged to bring the boys home.

But Reagan is committed. In November he told the nation that "as soon as internal stability has been restored in Lebanon and the withdrawal of all foreign troops becomes feasible, the marines will be pulled out."

But Lebanese stability prospects are as poor today as are the chances of an Israeli and Syrian pullout.

In September, a reluctant US Congress authorised the stationing of American troops in Beirut for 18 months — until April 1985.

Thus Reagan is now faced with an almost insoluble dilemma: If he withdraws prematurely he will lose face and jeopardise the credibility of American commitments, if he leaves them in Beirut he will lose more men.

The positions of the peacekeeping force in Beirut are militarily untenable. The marines in Beirut are surrounded by enemy artillery and rocket emplacements of the Shiite and Druze militia backed by Syria.

The heavy guns of the Sixth US Fleet that occasionally shell the mountain emplacements of the enemy are as ineffectual as shooting at sparrows with heavy artillery.

There is no effective defence against the suicide commandos of religious fanatics, and nobody doubts that they will repeat their attacks as long as the marines stay in Beirut.

Washington now also seems to realise that the position of the peace force has become untenable. A realistic Lebanese peace settlement that would make a further stay of the troops in Beirut unnecessary would be welcome to the Administration. It would permit a withdrawal without loss of face.

But the leaders of the feuding political and religious Lebanese factions were unable to reconcile their differences at the Geneva reconciliation conference in November.

Not only did they not arrive at an accommodation, but they could not even agree to continue the talks. As a result all that remains is to accept the de facto division of the country.

Israel has made it quite clear that, for the time being, it does not intend to pull back to the Awali River. And the Syrians show no sign of being prepared to withdraw from the north eastern part of the country before Israel has pulled out.

The Lebanese reality of today is that Israel and Syria each occupy one-third of the country. The remaining third is a Christian-Maronite city-state of Beirut with a harbour but no hinterland. There is also a Druze canton in the Chouf Mountains with its own administration.

In between, roaming around in search of regional unity, there is the large minority of Lebanese Shiites whose heartland in the south is Israeli occupied.

Though in no way ideal, this is the reality. To change it, President Reagan does not need marines. He needs a negotiating partner: Lebanon's big neighbour, Syria.

Carl E. Buch...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 January 1984)

Continued from page 1

ing lines of communication open. Was this, he asked in the Japanese city, the future of mankind?

"As long as people are still talking," he said with an eye on the Stockholm conference, "there will at least be no shooting."

"Disarmament," his predecessor as Swedish Foreign Minister, Ola Ullsten, once said, "is only possible when there is at least a minimum of confidence between the superpowers."

The Stockholm conference will show whether this minimum exists.

Günter Graffenberger

(Der Tagesspiegel, 8 January 1984)

The German Tribune

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, D-2000 Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1, Telex: 02-14733
Editor-in-chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution manager: Georgine Picone.

Advertising rates list No. 15
Annual subscription DM 45
Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln
Distributed in the USA by MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.
All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

More optimism over the economy

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Economic recovery seems to be a reality.

All leading economic research institutes agree that the process will gain momentum during the year.

Just after the election last March Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff faced largely sceptical businessmen at the 1983 Hanover Fair with his talk of what was a barely perceptible tail wind.

Now even dyed-in-the-wool sceptics in commerce, trades and industry feel more is in evidence than a slight current of air.

After two years of tough recession the economy has regained an even keel. General reservations have given way to increasing confidence.

The Bonn coalition parties, who sold themselves in last year's general election campaign as the motive force of recovery, are convinced they can deliver on their most important campaign promise.

But, the truth is that the applause for the Bonn champions of economic recovery remains subdued. Economists and business interests are not alone in failing to see signs of sustained, self-supporting recovery.

The general public may take a confident view at present, but it only applies to the next few months. Even Count Lambsdorff, gratified though he is sees serious risks ahead.

Interest rates may have declined but they are still too high. The current round of wage talks in the Federal Republic could herald industrial action on a large scale.

These are factors that provide uncertainty, but the Minister cannot content himself with mentioning them.

Lasting recovery calls for extra moves of a political nature.

Crisis management still prevails over "opportunity management," says Otto Wolff von Amerongen, president of the Standing Conference of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

He also feels the government has yet to get its principles of order right. Necessary though budget consolidation may be, it alone is not enough to sustain economic recovery.

As a financial policy measure it is an essential prerequisite for recovery but not a substitute for further economic policy moves.

The tax on company assets may have been reduced as an economic booster, but it is doubtful whether this move will prove very effective.

It will improve corporate profits but not necessarily or automatically lead to more investment. Special depreciation allowances surely make more sense.

They are certainly a step in the right direction inasmuch as a businessman only benefits from them if he actually makes an investment.

Contradictory views held within the government and the campaign promises on which it has failed to deliver the goods do not exactly create confidence in sustained economic recovery.

The Economic Affairs Minister rightly says the Bonn government was given a mandate to call for greater effort, harder work and more personal responsibility.

Yet the Finance Minister has to admit that despite protestations to the contrary subsidies will continue to increase in 1984, with even more cash being pumped into crisis-hit industries.

Another issue on which members of the government don't see eye to eye is the priority Bonn says it will give to offsetting inflationary tax increases that beset taxpayers.

The Free Democrats say 1986 is to be the deadline, whereas the Finance Ministry does not plan to reform the tax system until 1988 because, as state secretary Hansjörg Häfele puts it, "we (Christian Democrats) have joined forces with the FDP to balance public-sector budgets."

Such contradictions are not designed to put a clear picture across to consumers and investors: a clarity that as a confidence-building measure would exert a beneficial influence on recovery.

More needed

Righting this state of affairs is by no means all the government could do. What is needed is a policy to boost investment and ease structural change.

There must continue to be special depreciation allowances on investment and on R & D and on developing new products to the stage at which they are ready to be marketed.

A policy that rechannels venture capital into modern, productive sectors is also needed. Greater public-sector demand in the construction sector would also be worth considering.

It is time Bonn gave a clear indication of what it intends doing. The sooner we know what and when, the better it will be for the investment climate and for consumer behaviour: in other words, for the stabilisation of the recovery.

Anton Hunger

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 3 January 1984)

Peace movement facing a crisis of identity

When elections to the European Parliament are held on 17 June the peace movement would like to see voters mark two ballot papers.

One would be for their Euro-MP, the other for, or preferably against, the new medium-range US nuclear missiles.

On the day of the Euro-poll the peace movement plans to hold a plebiscite of its own on missile deployment at the entrance to polling-booths.

That is only one of the movement's campaign plans. They include Easter marches in spring and peace camps in summer, especially at missile bases, and maybe a mass rally in autumn.

Protest moves are sure to continue, yet many groups agree that they alone will not be enough to ensure the survival of the peace movement.

As Volkmar Deile of *Aktion Sühnezeichen*, a peace movement group with church ties, put it:

"A merely actionist strategy, let alone a strategy the sole consequence of which is struggle against deployment itself, is doomed to failure."

The peace movement is at the crossroads, having to admit that protest and opposition were not enough to prevent the deployment of Pershing 2s in West Germany.

This admission fosters both resignation and extremism, both of which are critical tendencies.

But an even more crucial point is the realisation that the onesidedness of a mere rejection of US missiles will limit future activity and its effectiveness.

The limits were very much in evidence last autumn, with pro-Communist groups maintaining a vigil to ensure that the so-called minimum consensus was observed as a kind of holy grail.

This consensus is unsuitable as a means of covering and dealing with the entire problem range of the spirit, logic and politics of deterrence.

It is a range that include both US and Soviet missiles, both nuclear and conventional armament, the connection between arms exports and pauperisation of the Third World and the link between the arms bill and unemployment.

Alternative security concepts, whether spanning or superseding the blocs, can thus hardly be drawn up in an unprejudiced manner.

The organisational set-up of the peace movement is both a hindrance and a risk to comprehensive discussion of the disarmament complex.

Party-political ties or affiliations of groups such as the Communists, the Greens and the Young Socialists will soon lead to trials of strength on anything that goes beyond the minimum consensus.

Yet this process is under way, as can be seen from the dissolution of the old Bonn steering committee, and fragmentation cannot be ruled out when wider issues are raised.

The peace movement may well reform, with a change in emphasis. That is probably why Volkmar Deile advocates strengthening the "independent centre," comprising mainly Christian groups.

They are committed to peace without direct ambitions in respect of power.

The idea may be not to be relegated from the status of a majority (be it only an opinion poll majority) to that of a minority viewpoint again.

That, of course, would heighten the danger of the peace issue being struck from the agenda once more.

But the independent centre is probably biting off more than it can chew in laying claim to the peace movement. It could well be torn apart by infighting between factions.

This might not be the case if the security policy views of the Social Democrats were in the longer term to become the same as those of the peace movement.

It would then have a political partner capable of putting objectives into practice, which is what the movement has so far lacked. But a great deal of skin will be painfully shed before this stage is reached. *Heinz Verfürth*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 December 1983)

Protest: the hot autumn that never was

There was talk of a political ice age occurring if the new medium-range US missiles were deployed in Europe. It was just a propaganda threat, like many more.

What has actually happened looks different: more level-headed and pragmatic, especially in intra-German relations.

GDR Party leader Erich Honecker coined the term *Schadensbegrenzung*, or limiting the damage.

His Foreign Minister, Oskar Fischer, said the two German states could exert a beneficial influence, especially in Europe, by means of good, normal relations.

There was also a striking appeal by Czech parliamentarians to Moscow to carry on negotiating on medium-range missiles in Geneva (this appeal was later withdrawn).

The Rumanian leader, Mr Ceausescu, has been even more spectacular in his moves against the Soviet retaliatory missile build-up in the East Bloc and for the Russians to keep on talking in Geneva.

The political effect and, even more so, the influence of East Bloc peace movements such as the Jena group in the GDR has often been enormously overestimated in the West.

But the decisive fact is that anxiety and the debate on world peace are as widespread in the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Rumania as in Western Europe.

That means there is not just a marked dissatisfaction with both new American and new Russian missiles in East *and* West. At least psychologically, people on both sides are taking a more detached view of the superpowers.

This trend is partly to the credit of the peace movement, which is now an international phenomenon, although its home base and numerical stronghold is still the Federal Republic of Germany.

Another success the peace movement can claim to have chalked up is its non-violence. There was talk of a "hot autumn" but it failed to happen.

Yet mass rallies were held, especially on 22 October, on a scale not seen in Germany since the war. Well over one million took to the streets to protest against missile deployment.

Over 200,000 people formed a human chain 108 km (68 miles) long between Stuttgart and Ulm.

The human and moral signal sounded by such gatherings was unmistakable and positive. But there could be no overlooking the fact that arguments tended to be vague.

"For Disarmament in East and West" was a prayer-wheel slogan that often concealed more than it revealed.

The overwhelming majority of the peace movement is strictly opposed to the deployment of American Pershing 2 and cruise missiles, whereas barely a mention is made of the Soviet SS-20s that are already deployed.

Fear of a nuclear inferno is combined with gullibility and political gusto lent impetus by keywords such as demilitarisation, withdrawal from Nato and neutralisation of the Federal Republic.

Making unrestrained use of the freedom of German democracy, breaking both the rules and the law, parts of the peace movement would not see this freedom jeopardised to any great extent by greater proximity to Moscow.

Scant attention is paid to oppression

Continued on page 4

■ THE LAW

Police questioned over cell blaze which killed six

General-Anzeiger

A remarkable change in emphasis has occurred in official views on the New Year's Eve fire in a West Berlin jail in which six men awaiting deportation died in their cell.

It first looked as though they had committed suicide, but the subsequent question was why the cell doors were not opened in time by the guards.

Four police officers are being questioned in connection with charges of causing death by negligence.

Before accusations were proved or disproved there were prompt charges by both Germans and foreigners that the Germans were showing signs of xenophobia again.

West Berlin's Home Affairs Senator, Heinrich Lummer, was not prepared to rule out human error in the antiquated conditions in which the men were held in custody.

The situation is unclear enough as it is. Matters cannot be left at this.

The six prisoners who were due to be deported clearly expected the guards to free them from the cells they had set on fire.

But what was intended as a flaming protest again deportation for what seem to have been drug offences backfired and became a deathrap.

The cell doors stayed shut. The arsonists suffocated in the smoke from the mattresses they had set on fire.

Maybe the officers on duty were afraid there might be a breakout attempt. Maybe the festive spirit made them lax in performing their guard duties.

The CID and the parliamentary commission of inquiry must come up with answers to these and other questions without delay.

At times West Berlin has been inundated with applicants for asylum. It is now trying to keep their numbers down to a reasonable relationship to intake capacity.

For what are arguably reasons of urban survival a clearer distinction is drawn in Berlin than in West Germany between genuine and bogus asylum applicants.

Their tales of woe are no longer believed unquestioningly, especially when applicants are in any way connection with the narcotics scene.

The restrictive policy on aliens has encountered criticism both in Berlin and elsewhere.

The Social Democrats and Alternatives, as the Opposition in the city council, depict individual takes of tribulation as a sad balance-sheet for which the ruling Christian Democrats are said to be to blame.

A particularly controversial point is whether leaving a poverty-stricken country might not justify a right to stay by the terms of Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution.

Suspicions of culpable homicide due to negligence such as have arisen in connection with the New Year's Eve fire have fuelled the flames of debate on German practice in dealing with asylum applicants.

They last came to a head when C. Kemal Altun, a 23-year-old under-trial facing deportation to Turkey, jumped to his death from a sixth-floor court window in Berlin.

Only a few months ago a report to the UN High Commissioner on Refugees compared conditions in German camps for asylum applicants with Hitler's concentration camps.

Accusations of German xenophobia are back on the international agenda.

An Alternative Berlin councillor described the primitive cells where deportees are kept in custody as a cage full of explosive sentiment.

Feelings would certainly be explosive when 20 people were kept cooped up in a cell of this kind for months on end.

This is a state of affairs that needs setting right with as little red tape as possible, especially as it paints an unnecessarily gloomy picture of German readiness to welcome foreigners keen to live and work in safety.

Hermann Eich

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 4 January 1984)



Waiting for doors to open. (Photo: Mrotzkowski)

Deportation the last resort, explains Berlin senator

In 1982 there were 756 deportees from Berlin. Last year roughly 1,500 foreigners were deported from the city. A third were asylum applicants who had been turned down and refused to leave.

Deportation, says Christian Democrat Heinrich Lummer, West Berlin's Home Affairs Senator, is the last resort.

Provisions are laid down in Paragraph 13 of the Aliens Act. In Berlin three main categories are liable to be deported.

● Asylum applicants whose applications have been finally rejected and who refuse to leave the Federal Republic voluntarily are deported. They account for about one deportation order in three.

● Foreign nationals found to have forged or invalid papers or none at all stand to be deported. They mainly land at Schönefeld airport, East Berlin.

From there they find their way into the West via Friedrichstrasse station in East Berlin, being put on a west-bound train.

This category accounts for over half the foreign nationals held in custody in West Berlin awaiting deportation.

● Criminal offenders are also served deportation orders. They have usually served jail sentences for drug offences and are then deported or kept in custody pending the outcome of asylum proceedings.

Last year 10 per cent of deportees were in this category. Foreigners have long made up between 40 and 50 per cent of drug offenders in the city.

One in three is an Arab, one in four a Pakistani and one in five a Turk.

The quarters where they are kept under lock and key are in Steglitz, and the jail registers constant comings and goings.

There are five cell blocks designed for about 70 inmates. They usually spend only a few days awaiting the flight back home at the Senate's expense.

Seldom does a deportee spend more than six weeks in police custody. This is the limit beyond which they should not to be held, according to Paragraph 16 of the Aliens Act.

Legally there is no connection between asylum applications and the permissibility of deportation orders, a state of affairs that has created confusion and dissatisfaction in Berlin and elsewhere.

A review of the Aliens Act has been ordered by the Bonn Justice Ministry in connection with the suicide of a Turkish asylum applicant in August 1983.

It could lead to a solution of a problem that has created difficulties in Berlin for the past two years.

A Berlin administrative court has [illegible] ted deportation order applications in respect of convicted drug offenders who had appealed against deportation.

"The inner security of Berlin is [illegible] jeapardised by narcotics dealers," the court ruled. After a record year in which 76 drug addicts died in the city this [illegible] ling upset many people.

The Senate has appealed against [illegible] ruling to arrive at a judgment on [illegible] may be considered a test case, but [illegible] first court of appeal neatly sidestepped responsibility in March 1983.

Instead of ruling on the inner security aspect of the case it merely referred to the asylum application, which was still being processed while the case was heard.

The drug peddlar could not be deported, the court ruled, because he might face danger to life and limb in his native country.

This was a point on which clarity would have to be gained in the asylum proceedings.

F. Diederichs

(Die Welt, 3 January 1984)

Continued from page 3

Hot autumn

in Eastern Europe by the Kremlin. There is less mention than there used to be of the value of freedom.

Such patterns of thought and behaviour extend well into the Social Democratic Party, which at a special conference in Bonn in November opposed by an overwhelming majority the deployment of new US missiles.

Ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is one of the few Social Democrats who did not abruptly and demonstratively turn his back on the party's previous security policy.

At its Bonn conference and in the Bundestag debate on 21 and 22 November the SPD reaffirmed its commitment to the Bundeswehr, the Atlantic alliance, partnership with the United States and the existing social set-up in the Federal Republic.

But the party's "yes but" was merely lip service. On missile modernisation, the current practical issue, the Social Democrats withheld servive to the pact to which in principle they were committed.

Besides, it was unclear how the SPD in Geneva aimed now or in future to come by success in negotiation when as a result of its unconditional renunciation of missile deployment it no longer had anything to offer.

Willy Brandt has united the party behind him. Shadow Chancellor Hans-Jochen Vogel, SPD leader in the Bundestag, is in his shadow.

By dint of a party-political and psychological tour de force that cost a great deal of energy the Bonn coalition parties, the CDU/CSU and FDP, have upheld the missile deployment decision and embarked on the stationing of Pershing 2s in the Federal Republic.

They have testified to political firmness and consistency. They have spared Western Europe and the Atlantic alliance an enormous political shake-up.

This shake-up would inevitable have occurred if Western missile modernisation had no longer been feasible after the breakdown of the Geneva missile talks on account of pressure from the peace movement and of Soviet propaganda.

As it is, the Soviet Union has failed to achieve its aim of monopolising medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. It will also no longer be able to exert political pressure be means of these missiles.

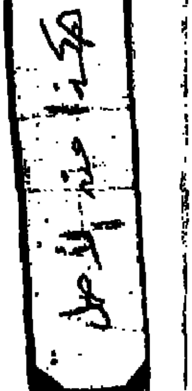
The Geneva talks on strategic arms reduction (Start) and intermediate nuclear forces (INF) were thereupon interrupted by Moscow — as expected.

They are expected to be resumed in the New Year, maybe under another guise. A political ice age in East-West ties has so far failed to occur and seems unlikely to do so.

This is surely a promising sign that the superpowers will eventually come to terms on arms limitation after all.

Jürgen Offenbach

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 31 December 1983)



Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, now a senior editorial member of the weekly newspaper, *Die Zeit*, here reveals some of his ideas about life and politics.

■ PERSPECTIVE

Helmut Schmidt on the meaning of angst

Anxiety in general, fear in particular, and an inclination toward pessimism, melancholy, *Weltschmerz, Lebensangst* and depression have since the creation of mankind been as much a part of our make-up as fundamental hope, the inclination toward optimism, belief in progress, euphoria and trust in God.

Many of us find it hard to strike a balance. Some are unable for much of their lives to keep their worries in check.

Next to no-one is never troubled by anxiety, as every doctor, every clergyman and any experienced person well knows.

The doctor, the clergyman and the partner usually find it hard, and at times fail completely in their bid, to help others to overcome their anxiety. Yet all of us need this help time and again.

Heracles and Siegfried, heroes of the Greek and Germanic mythical worlds, were portrayed to me as a youth as though they were never afraid. I never felt particularly attracted to them.

It was Marcus Aurelius, a late Roman and entirely different figure, who gave me most strength to handle my worries in the Nazi era and during the war.

He knew that the success and outcome of his endeavours lay in God's hand, but he also realised it was still his duty to live by the ethical precepts he had recognised and acknowledged.

I have always felt it was desirable to emulate his equanimity and sense of duty. Living in an age of anxiety as we do, how are we to come by help, examples to follow, imperturbability and faithfulness to principles?

Someone who has never experienced anxiety can hardly help people who are afraid. I have often been afraid, throughout almost the entire Nazi era, for instance.

My parents had something to hide from the regime, and as a result so did I. If it had been found out it would have been dangerous.

I often felt fear during the war: in the West, in the East and in the air-raid shelters back home.

I was afraid as Chancellor during the abduction of Hanns-Martin Schleyer and the hijacking of a Lufthansa airliner full of holidaymakers.

I was worried about the lives of others and afraid I might do something decisive that jeopardised their lives. I hope I succeeded in keeping my fears to myself. I have always felt other people must on no account be infected with one's own anxiety.

Infecting others with one's own anxiety is exactly what is happening today, and on a large scale. There is fear of unemployment, of war, of the arms race, of nuclear armament, or crime, of the destruction of our natural environment and living conditions.

There are many kinds of fear of being unable to cope with dangers as an individual. There is growing anxiety that society as a whole, the state or its leaders might lack the insight and powers of decision needed to handle dangers, contain them and avert them.

This anxiety is widespread in nearly all European countries and almost all over North America. Anxiety is on the increase, and many people feel at the mercy of developments they are unable to see through.

People in other countries, and not just in Germany, feel their interests are being looked after by leaders who are not clearly aware of the dangers and unable to handle them rightly.

A number of Western leaders (but not only they) have largely only themselves to blame for purporting to be fearless and forthright in dealing with objective dangers, for instance.

Another part of "blame" lies, I feel, with the media. Their view of what is news confronts us with an enormous amount of news and views of catastrophes, wars and calamities from all over the world.

It is a confrontation more massive than any past generation has had to face.

A third part of the "blame" lies with those who feel fear must be fomented so as to reverse a trend. They almost invariably fail to prove that the direction they propose can be taken with impunity.

The result is that anxiety is misunderstood as a virtue and other people's anxiety is misused as an instrument in the political struggle, and idealistic utopias are misunderstood as practically feasible political tasks.

That is how inadequately experienced people, or even dilettantes, come to gain power and can give rise to extra anxiety (anxiety I share) by virtue of their powers of influence or even decision.

The age of growing anxiety is even more pronounced in Germany than elsewhere, and for two reasons, the first being that we Germans lack the reassurance of national identity in a nation-state.

DIE ZEIT

The second is that the historic burden that weighs on our conscience as a result of Hitler's world war and holocaust leads to a morally fully justified fear.

We are anxious to avoid at all cost a repetition of the mistakes that enabled Hitler to assume power and commit his crimes.

On both grounds there is a feeling of upset in Germany that outstrips what is felt by other European nations.

Even so, I don't thinking we are being sensible in succumbing to such anxiety. What foolish exaggerations and mistakes have been made in Germany alone in the past decade and a half as a result of anxiety and campaigns to foment it!

In 1968 we passed emergency legislation to supersede the rights to intervene in our domestic affairs the Allies had reserved. The Emergency Powers Act was preceded by lengthy debate.

Many people were worried about the possibility of dictatorship or even of a reversion to fascism. Nothing of the kind has happened. The rule of law and democracy have proved sound and reliable.

In view of a world energy crisis an increasing number of nuclear power stations were built, whereupon worriers and fomenters of anxiety conjured dreadful visions and even felt themselves morally justified in resorting to violence.

Yet there has been not a single serious nuclear mishap in Germany to date, whereas we have come to appreciate the danger of over-reliance on the combustion of hydrocarbons.

The effect of this on the environment has been brought home to us much more clearly than in the past by acid rain, for instance, and the death of coniferous forests it has partly brought about.

When Frankfurt, one of the busiest airports in the world, needed an extra runway even civil servants felt called on to advocate opposition to this rape of nature.

What they failed to see was that it was mainly a matter of extra long-term jobs in one of the few growth industries, whereas steel, coal, shipbuilding and shipping jobs are fast declining.

Anxiety and the characteristic tendency to jump to mistaken conclusions on what is seen as the solution occurred in 1983 mainly in connection with the deployment of medium-range US missiles.

Yet stationing them seems indispensable as a political counterweight to the Soviet deployment of an overwhelming number of SS-20s.

In all these instances justified worries have been, and continue to be, exaggerated beyond all common sense into fears for survival and, in some cases, readiness to resort to violence.

In every case there has repeatedly been a lack of judgement, knowledge of history and equanimity, especially in the generation of today's 25-, 30- or 35-year-olds.

They react partly in disappointment after having previously experienced an almost continuous economic upswing accompanied by full employment and expected it to continue in future.

They are partly disappointed because they had exaggerated idealistic expectations of democracy rather than accepting its countless errors, mistakes and shortcomings (and their being made public) as an essential part of the system.

They are partly disappointed after having misunderstood East-West detente and its further progress as a matter of course.

The Germans are uneasy again, many people in France and other neighbouring European countries are saying.

If this impression were to stick, it would become a political danger for which we were jointly to blame, because the need and the desire to contain German leeway and legitimate German interests would arise.

But must all this inevitably happen? History books recall that there was a sense of inevitable impending doom, of apocalypse, of fear of the Last Judgment and of hysteria at the end of the first millenium AD.

There was another period, at the end of the Middle Ages, when the end was felt to be nigh and Armageddon to be at hand. Albrecht Dürer was an artist who depicted his nightmare of the end of the world, but in reality it was the crisis of the old order that prompted anxiety.

At other times we Germans have had real reason to feel frankly worried: during the Thirty Years' War, for instance, in which two thirds of the population of Germany died.



Schmidt at work (Photo: Sven Simon)

The First World War, for that matter, cost two million German lives and laid the groundwork for the Depression 10 years later, with its six million unemployed and the opportunity they gave Hitler.

Or take Hitler himself, who eliminated freedom of the individual and eventually brought about the death of 50 million people and the destruction of German cities and division of the country.

There is no-one today, neither in Moscow nor in Washington, who is planning or preparing for a world war. The death of two people in Sarajevo led to a world war, whereas the shooting-down of an airliner and over 250 deaths has failed to lead to hostilities.

Since 1945 not a day has passed on which war or civil war was not being waged somewhere or other in the world, and two million people have been killed in the process.

Yet the political and military balance of power in Europe has saved us Germans from war for nearly 40 years. Who would have dared to hope that in 1945!

There is no reason that convinces me for being more afraid today than at any other time since the beginning of the nuclear era.

Today's anxiety is irrational; it comes from the soul and not from the mind. But common sense and sweet reason can help to overcome it.

Common sense outlines ways by which the Federal Republic of Germany, its government and its people, can help East and West to get to know each other better and to want to cooperate on disarmament, economics and the arts.

It also indicates way in which we Europeans, jointly with North America, Japan, the oil states and the non-oil countries in the Third World, can deal with the structural crisis of the international economy.

Who can we take as a model? For me President Sadat of Egypt was exemplary: not a pacifist, not a man of unilateral renunciation of armament, but a soldier *and* peacemaker.

Equanimity? For me it results from one's actions being in keeping with one's basic values, in other words, from loyalty to principles.

But to be absolutely honest and to tell the full truth, for over 40 years I have always known that although we must do our duty to the very best of our ability, the outcome is decided by someone else. God remains the master of history.

Helmut Schmidt

(Die Zeit, 23 December 1983)

■ FINANCE

EEC looks with both envy and anger at American economy

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Europe is envious that the United States has got its economic recovery into top gear, apparently without effort.

But there is also anger because it is felt that this full speed ahead American policy might slow down Europe's recovery.

The EEC Commission expects an economic growth of about 1.5 per cent in 1984. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expects America's to be five per cent, adjusted for inflation.

In mid-1985, America's GNP will be almost nine per cent higher than two years earlier, compared with three per cent in Europe.

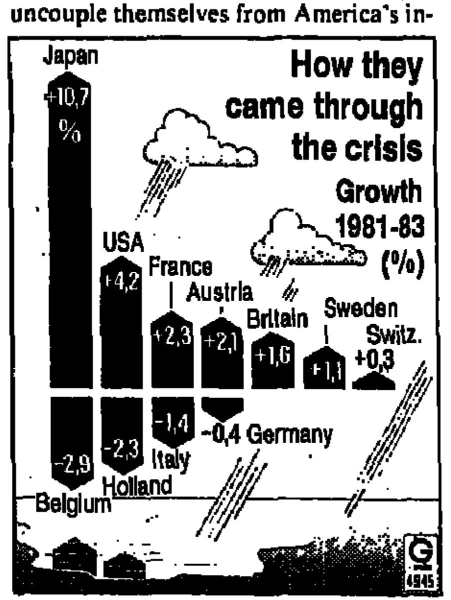
The results will be sorely felt in jobs.

America's unemployment rate of about nine per cent is likely to drop to eight per cent while Europe's is likely to go up from 10.4 to 11 per cent.

There is, however, doubt about whether the anger with the Reagan Administration's growth policy is as justified as the envy.

Europe has been criticising America's high interest rates on the ground that they are preventing investment in Europe.

Europe's central banks cannot simply uncouple themselves from America's interest levels, and the cost of money is still too high in Europe, the critics say.



And what cash is available is more likely to go into dollar securities, where it is safer and returns a better profit, than into new plant and equipment or products.

"Low interest rates and a weaker dollar would have a positive effect on the world economy," OECD experts say. But they also point to the drawbacks: Lower interest rates and a weaker dollar would improve America's international competitiveness at Europe's expense.

The past few years have clearly shown that the strong dollar has favoured Europe's exports.

In 1980, the ten EEC nations had a combined trade deficit of $36.3bn. This was down to $9.5bn in 1982. And 1983 is likely to see them back in the black.

The situation is reversed in the United States. America is not only struggling against a huge budget deficit but also against a trade deficit.

The balance of payments, which still showed a slight surplus in 1980, is now deep in the red and likely to reach $42.5bn for 1983.

If the dollar continues as buoyant as it is now, the American deficit will rise to $80bn in 1984 while the EEC will be $13bn in the black, the OECD predicts.

Even so, the European Commission is sceptical about this export-boosting effect of the strong dollar.

A five per cent rise in exports to the USA will generate only one per cent growth in the EEC, according to Brussels.

Even taking the effects on other export markets into account (where invoicing is frequently done in dollars) Europe's national economies would grow only 0.3 per cent.

When weighing these growth impetuses against the negative effects of America's high interest policy, it is by no means certain that the result will help the EEC, the Commission says.

But regardless of the strength of the dollar, the Eurocrats still pin their 1984 hopes on exports, if the "weak and fragile upturn" can be put on a sound footing.

In 1983, the rise in private consumption was the most important indication of recovery. In 1984, the locomotive role will be taken over by exports which the Commission expects to rise by 3.4 per cent, and investment (up two per cent).

Private consumption will be exceed 1983 levels, and public sector budgets will contribute little to an upturn because all EEC countries give priority to budget consolidation, official forecasts say. This economic pattern has been confirmed by the latest polls among businessmen and consumers. Industrial planners expect a rise in production — for the first time in four years — though this will differ from country to country. In France, where the Mitterand government has long tried to beat the recession with booster measures, expectations have only now reached a low point.

On the other hand, the production outlook in the three most promising countries, Germany, Britain and Italy, has greatly improved.

Prospects for private consumption, on the other hand, have deteriorated, particularly in Germany, where faith in the future is thought to be declining, and to some extent also in Britain.

These two countries are in every other respect given better prospects than the rest of the Ten.

The European Economic Community

Britain · Holland · Belgium · Luxemb. · Ireland · Denmark · F. R. Germany · France · Greece · Portugal · Spain · Italy

= Entry proposed

507

Opinion analysts blame consumer pessimism primarily on the anticipated growing joblessness and inflation rate.

But the inflation situation is better than the mood.

Average EEC consumer price rises were more than ten per cent in 1981. They are expected to continue their decline and level off at 5.6 per cent in 1984. Germany's inflation rate — like Japan's and the USA's — is likely to be about three per cent.

According to the OECD, this should create the confidence needed for investment and private consumption.

Uwe Vorkötter

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 31 December 1983)

Border checkpoints: a lot of tax on a bottle of imbroglio

Frankfurter Rundschau

Motorists travelling from Holland to Belgium or from Belgium to Luxembourg are not often stopped at border checkpoints.

But they are if they are going from Luxembourg to Belgium.

In this case customs officers are even likely to stop them on secondary roads.

The reason is simple: Luxembourg's value added tax and alcohol and tobacco taxes are much lower than anywhere else in the EEC.

Yet there have been no systematic border controls between the three Benelux countries for ten years.

Experienced travellers try to avoid the border between Luxembourg and Germany because German customs officers pounce on Saarlanders bringing in cheap goods from Luxembourg.

The three Benelux countries — like the Scandinavian countries with each other — have opted for an easygoing approach.

Euro-MPs like Karl von Wogau (CDU) and Dieter Rogalla (SPD), who are championing the popular call for the removal of border checks, are united in a desperate double battle.

First, interior ministers of most EEC countries oppose lifting border controls for people on the grounds that this would hamper the fight against dope smugglers, criminals, terrorists and illegal immigrants.

But if they were to take this to its logical conclusion they would have to introduce border checks between the German states, French departements and Italian provinces.

Second, finance ministers balk. Though there have been no tariff barriers between EEC nations since 1968, tax rates vary widely. This means that border crossers still have to pay up at most checkpoints.

The European Parliament has now once more called for a streamlining of taxation, if only gradually.

"Without harmonising taxation, we might as well close the Common Market," concludes Euro-MP Rogalla in his report on the EEC Commission's almost fruitless ten-year effort in that direction.

The Council of Ministers has had proposals to that effect for years, but they have been stonewalled by national bureaucracies.

Many agree that the rates for VAT and other consumer taxes need not necessarily be equalised. All they want is to eliminate some of the worst discrepancies.

State sales taxes in the USA also vary widely without anybody thinking of introducing border checks.

When Germany raised its VAT to 13 per cent it hoped that this would bring it slightly more in line with the rest of the Community.

But then most other member nations — Luxembourg was a notable exception — raised their VAT another few percentage points up to 20 per cent, thus nullifying the effect of the German increase.

The tendency to raise VAT is strongest in countries where income tax evasion is rampant. Some nations have imposed a super-VAT on items like jewellery, cosmetics, art, cars and car accessories. This ranges from 25 per cent in Belgium to 35 per cent in Italy.

Taxes on tobacco and alcohol, items particularly tempting for small-time smugglers, pose a special problem.

In the 1960s, the EEC Commission called for tobacco taxes, to be harmonised.

But nothing has happend despite the chronic money problems of all finance ministers and despite the fact that raising these taxes should by easy if it pretended that they were for health protection.

The tobacco growers' lobby in France and Italy has been doing its job.

Luxembourg wants to keep its retailers happy by attracting customers from the neighbouring countries. After all, they buy not only cigarettes but coffee and other items as well.

High taxes on whisky and spirits profit Britain and Denmark handsomely. Both even regard wine as a luxury — much to the delight of the brewers.

The Community's wine-growing countries are hoping for better sales if wine taxes in the northern countries is lowered.

But the wine-tax dispute has also been in progress for many years because of the demand that Italy and France reciprocate by lowering taxes on beer.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 December 1983)

■ THE CONSUMER

Inaction where there's lots of room to act

Bonn politicians tend to sidestep questions about consumer policies, saying they have more important things to worry about. As if their halfhearted fight against unemployment were at odds with consumer protection.

Important draft bills have for years been shoved back and forth between ministries and committees, Bonn and Brussels, without any action being taken. Doing something might rub the business lobby the wrong way.

A case in point is crooked business practices used in door-to-door selling. *Kaffeefahrten* (outings with coffee and cakes for the elderly where they are usually embarrassed into buying) and other sales tricks directed mainly at older people.

Consumer associations have long urged legislation that would permit the unwary buyer to revoke signed purchase contracts.

Widely differing political forces like the State of Bavaria and the SPD group in the Bundestag have unsuccessfully tried to change laws. Especially because they could be changed without fuss and bother.

Another example is the manufacturer's liability for damage resulting from faulty products, regardless whether this was due to negligence or not.

Other EEC countries have this sort of legislation.

The fact that Bonn rejects the manufacturer liability provisions because of the cost this would mean for industry hardly speaks for industry's quality consciousness.

The actual cost to industry is unlikely to be great and could be covered by insurance.

But the consumer stands to lose heavily from the damage caused by faulty products.

Consumer protection is particularly important during economic crisis, when people have less money.

But instead of doing something for the consumer, Bonn and the CDU/CSU-governed states are cutting back still further on funding for consumer protection agencies.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 January 1984)



Tickling the palate: (left) coffee tasters pick out beans for extract and (right) wine tasters test the quality for labelling purposes. (Photos: Centerpress)

Food labelling regulations are tightened up

Packaged food in the Federal Republic must now be labelled exactly. Ingredients must be listed and minimum storage life must be indicated.

Laws enforcing this have just come into force. Until now, only certain categories of food were required to be precisely labelled. Many exceptions have been removed. But not all.

Confusions remain. For a start, what exactly is packaged food?

The law defines it as "all products packaged under the provisions of the weights and measures authority, provided they were packaged and sealed in the buyer's absence in a manner that precludes changing the quantity of the food contained in the package without opening or altering it." Now we know.

These items must now bear the commonly used designation of the products which cannot be some fantasy name like "midnight soup".

The label must give the name of the manufacturer and list all ingredients on a descending scale in terms of quantity.

Consumers will now have to get used to the fact that the label on a packaged sausage in a supermarket lists not only such obvious ingredients as "beef, pork, water and spices" but also more suspicious substances like "phosphates, stabilisers, emulsifiers and flavour boosters."

It is debatable whether this extensive listing is needed to protect the consumer, it is even more debatable whether the consumer cares.

A recent consumer poll shows that only nine per cent of respondents always read information on labels; half do occasionally; 41 per cent never.

But in future what the consumer is bound to pay attention to is the storage life expiry date.

But there are exceptions. No expiry date need be given for sugar, salt, eggs, honey, coffee extracts, chocolate, cocoa, beer, all beverages with an alcohol content of more than ten per cent, fresh bakery products and fruit and vegetables.

The date of packaging must be shown for deep frozen meat or fish and for butter and fresh cheese. Minced meat and sausages for frying must show the storage life.

Fruit juices fall under special provisions for a transition period.

Food laws have their nuances and remain confusing, but most foodstuffs will now at least have a stamp saying: "Will keep at least until . . ."

But this is neither a real expiry date nor does it mark the last day on which the food may be sold or safely used.

Retailers will have to come to terms with the fact that most consumers will disregard these fine distinctions and take the date as an expiry date.

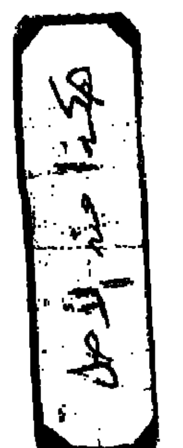
This means that more food still fit for consumption will have to be sent back to the manufacturers. The extra cost is bound to be passed on to the consumer.

After the inevitable transition period, the public will get used to them.

Consumer associations grant no period of grace. The sales manager of a supermarket chain: "Consumer protection officials will be out in force checking our shelves. Their holidays have been cancelled."

Heinz Hildebrandt

(Die Welt, 27 December 1983)



■ TECHNOLOGY

George Orwell's year flashes in on an optical fibre

This year stands poised to mark the beginning of a cable-linked society. It is as if it were so ordained by Aldous Huxley and George Orwell.

The year's technological feature is videotex which, in its turn, is the precursor of a multi-channel communications technology for which copper and optical-fibre cables are now being laid on a large scale.

What the economic and social impact of the new technology will be is unclear.

Experts are more divided than ever on the global consequences of galloping progress. Long-term, reliable technological forecasts are impossible. Technical prophecies are absurd.

Inventions cannot be predicted. They can at best be anticipated or hoped for on the basis of general technological development, much as Huxley and Orwell did.

These are the conclusions of a panel of experts commissioned by the Bonn Research Ministry to study technology and employment.

The technologies of the future will depend less on technical feasibility than on marketability.

They will also depend on whether new production methods will raise productivity and improve competitiveness at home and abroad, the study says.

Politicians, businessmen and trade unionists who now have to make decisions on future economic and social policy, investment and employment are finding it difficult.

The panel that prepared the study lends a helping hand with a finding by the *Prognose Institut:*

"Priority will be given to technologies that promote cost reduction, less tied up capital, rising productivity and adaptability of products to demand. Semiconductor technology comes close to meeting these criteria."

In its study "Office 1990," Siemens pointed to rationalisation advantages to be gained through computers. Up to 30 per cent of office jobs could be automated by 1990.

This would put about two million typists and some three million others out of work.

Redundancy in banking would be about ten per cent. It would be between 30 and 50 per cent in the office and other administrative sectors.

The study says little about what the new technology can do for more comfortable and humane working conditions.

What *Prognose Institut* said has thus already become reality.

The future of a specific new technology also depends on the life expectancy of the novelty.

For suppliers of videotex equipment and programmes, this means that they must now already carefully figure when this new mass communication system will meet with a rush of demand on the market and make the investment pay off.

The planners must also be able to figure out at what point the next likely technology of the future (multi-channel communication) will start replacing videotex.

Is the German post office right to assume that there will be more than one million videotex subscribers as of 1986/87 and that the system will start paying off at that point?

Recent experience in computer manufacture and microelectronics shows the importance of such forecasts.

Here, the present is increasingly catching up with the future: once, it took several decades before fundamental new inventions were mass-produced and thrown on the market. Today, this time lag is less than ten years.

According to Siemens, semiconductor technologies require new production lines costing DM50m to DM100m at intervals as short as every four years. Even corporate mammoths are often hard put to raise that sort of money.

Germany's 40,000 medium-sized industrial companies that will require micro-chips and robots will therefore have to think twice before opting to jump on the technological bandwagon of a cable-linked society.

The stiff competition in the new capital-intensive branches of industry (semi-conductors, personal computers, video recorders, hi-fi sets and communication technology) shows the danger of wrong decision.

Once assembly-line robots have taken over the mass production of highly integrated semiconductors, digitalised electronics and optical-fibre technology, it should not be too expensive to buy additional electronics.

It is the blend of a sure-hit product idea, dependable electronics and precision mechanics that ensures market success.

The works of a quartz watch can be bought cheaply anywhere. Success comes from the blend of materials in the casing and watchband and styling.

Who knows, the precision mechanic or the optician could still stand a better chance in the future than the electronics and communication engineer.

Ulrich Viehöver

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 31 December 1983)

City centres likely to lose out

New communications technologies will eliminate many city centre jobs, says a study by *Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik* (DIFU) in Berlin.

But cities would grow. Location would become less important for communication and the outskirts of metropolitan areas would get bigger.

An institute study says the new technologies would mean that:

- road traffic will fall
- more people will work at home in front of a computer terminal
- rural areas will not gain economically at the expense of the cities.

"The structure of branches of business sited in various parts of cities will change markedly," the researchers predict.

However, a balancing out between employment in town and city, expected by some politicians because of the advance of telecommunications, would not happen.

Cities would become economically stronger, especially on the outskirts.

The study for the first time analyses the consequences of new communication technologies for metropolitan structures and traffic flows.

It is based on more than 130 interviews with businessmen and scientists in Cologne, Stuttgart, Frankfurt and Munich.

The authors say that most of the advantages from the new technologies would go to southern Germany's city areas.

"The already existing north-south drift of economic potentials will be intensified," they say.

There is yet another way in which the new technologies will have a direct impact on conurbations. There is a clearly defined trend to move facilities to the outskirts of cities. It was likely that cities would get bigger because the new technologies made it possible to obtain information from any geographical location.

This made it unnecessary to be in the city centre.

The study speaks of a "newly gained scope for siting decisions" that would play a particularly important role for offices.

It quotes "tele-work at home" as an extreme form of decentralised siting.

"The computer will be taken as much for granted as the car."

Working at a computer screen at home would become more common. A growing number of jobs are likely to be totally or partly shifted to the worker's home.

On advantage would be a saving of commuter time.

The study stresses that road traffic would decrease. "This will not only result in considerable energy savings but will also reduce the long-run necessity to develop the road network."

The institute finds it difficult to assess the future demand for office space. But existing space which no longer met the requirements of new technologies might not be suitable for conversion. This would boost demand.

The study concludes that the municipalities must develop blueprints to control the "creeping decline" of metropolitan areas.

F. Diederichs

(Die Welt, 24 December 1983)

Job training becoming more important

There are more office workers in Germany than blue-collar workers. The country is rapidly becoming a service-oriented society.

Dr Werner Dostal of the Federal Labour Office estimates that about five million Germans work with electronic devices.

The magazine *micro* puts the number of terminals in German offices at 300,000, likely to rise to one million by 1985. One-fifth of all office work can be done entirely by computer, *micro* says.

Jörg-Michael Plätzer of the Triumph-Adler office equipment company: "Many youngsters familiarise themselves with the computer world through hobby and home computers, more or less as fun. Older workers, on the other hand, have to overcome a threshold fear when faced with new electronic office technology.

"Many workers have to attend courses and retrain. The traditional pattern of vocational training and subsequent career has been replaced by a continuous learning process."

This would suggest that the fear of jobs being automated away is largely unfounded.

Dr Joseph Huber of Berlin's Free University says that automation and new technologies do not lead to unemployment. Such statements were "so ill thought out as to verge on nonsense."

The number of jobs in the Western industrial countries had been rising steadily — from 270 million in 1960 to 299 million in 1970 and 327 million in 1979, despite the crisis years, said Dr Huber.

In fact, the advance of modern communication technologies had created at least 600,000 jobs in German offices.

About 200,000 of these jobs were created in the manufacture of office and information equipment; 300,000 in preparatory work and 100,000 in the maintenance and repair sector, Dr Dostal told the CeBIT Forum 84 of the Hanover Fair. The demand for skilled personnel in the last two sectors was growing.

He denied that the new type of work was less interesting than before, further training always paid off.

He quoted Henry Ford, who had said that the division of labour in his plants was brought about by the necessity to employ even totally unskilled farm workers on his assembly lines.

Fundamentally new technological developments were taking place now, Dr Heinz Munter of Philips Kommunikations Industrie told the Forum.

This was ushered in by the introduction by the Post Office of new "open" communication services such as videotex and teletext.

Open communication systems like the telephone network were marked by the fact that anyone could use them, regardless of the make of their equipment.

Since these open communication systems could be used by small firms they were likely to spread rapidly: 97 per cent of German businesses had payrolls of fewer than 50 and were therefore classed as small.

But the use of open systems made the present division of labour unfeasible. For instance, it would be silly to use a worker who had countless data banks at his disposal only to pass on information.

Jobs formerly done by different people would have to be done by one person:

Dr Rudolf Lambrecht of Siemens said:

"Accounting: No longer figure-totting serfs but accounting analysts.

"Personnel office: personnel counsellors instead of wage calculators.

"Design: data processing and more creativity instead of drafting segments."

Work processes would also be influenced by open systems, Dr Munter said. Anybody who could obtain information from a data bank no longer needed to sift all information every day — information he might need in future.

Information would no longer have to be tediously gathered, and there would be less of it.

All office workers would be able to see things in an overall context. They would be able to demand the correct information, compile it and use it to make decisions, Dr Munter told the Forum.

But this presupposed better training. Unskilled and semi-skilled people would be at a disadvantage. Training would become more important.

Walter Baier

(Nordwest Zeitung, 3 January 1984)

■ COMMUNICATIONS

Cable TV makes its debut to the sounds of Handel

Cable TV, the first scheme of its kind in Germany, was premiered in Ludwigshafen on New Year's Day.

The Rhineland-Palatinate made headline news for once as the first commercial TV in Germany went on the air at 10 a.m. It was an "open channel" programme about 1984.

Half an hour later PKS, the first commercial operator, relayed a programme of music by Handel. It was followed in the afternoon and evening by others.

EPF broadcast an inaugural party with well-known guests and a talk show. The Sky Channel relayed a programme of music and variety in English.

Cable TV in Ludwigshafen and the surrounding countryside, the first of four schemes in the Federal Republic, is to run experimentally until the end of 1986.

It and pilot projects planned in Munich, Dortmund and Berlin will be the only ones as part of which private operators will be able to broadcast radio and TV programmes of their own.

Their work will merely be supervised and coordinated by a semi-official agency, the AKK, or Cable Communication Authority.

It is housed in a two-storey yellow-brick building in the grounds of what used to be Ludwigshafen's abattoir, and at the time of writing the building was a hive of activity.

AKK staff were preparing for the launch, cables were being laid, cameras put through their paces, and manager Claus Detjen and his staff were at the ready.

The AKK was set up by Prime Minister Bernhard Vogel, CDU, and the Rhineland-Palatinate government for trials of wide-band cable and other communication techniques.

Ludwigshafen was chosen because Baden-Württemberg originally planned to join forces with the Palatinate, extending the pilot project to neighbouring Mannheim on the other side of the Rhine.

But Baden-Württemberg pulled out and the scheme was extended to neighbouring areas of the state, including towns such as Frankenthal, Speyer, Schifferstadt and Neustadt an der Weinstrasse. They will soon be joined by Worms.

So far not many people have shown interest even though the Bundespost has laid enough cable to serve roughly 40,000 consumers.

The special wide-band cable is capable of relaying up to 24 TV and radio programmes and takes the place of a conventional TV aerial.

But only about 2,000 consumers were cabled in for the start and 6,000 applications were still being processed.

Cost is a self-evident consideration. The change-over will on average cost about DM625, including DM200 for a TV set adapter and DM300 for installation.

The Bundespost is charging an introductory installation fee of DM125, later to be increased to DM400. In addition to the monthly TV licence fee there will be a monthly rental charge of DM13.50.

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

People who may be interested could be waiting to see what programmes will be available. But Herr Detjen is confident keener interest will be shown once the scheme gets going.

That was one reason why he insisted on going ahead on time on New Year's Day. IPs, or information providers, are available in plenty.

Broadcasting licences have been applied for by 104 would-be operators. The AKK has given 36 the go-ahead. Only eight TV and four radio channels are available for the time being, but the number is shortly to be increased.

On New Year's Day only one channel was fully operational, broadcasting six hours of commercial TV a day. It was PKS Channel 1, based in Frankfurt.

PKS shareholders include the cooperative savings banks association and retail chains such as Edeka and Rewe, with the finances provided by the Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank in Frankfurt.

It works in close cooperation with Leo Kirch, the largest film dealer in the country with a stock of 20,000 movies.

The PKS programme is intended, says manager Jürgen Doetz, as a "realistic alternative" to the programme range offered by existing broadcasting corporations.

The emphasis will be on entertainment, with two movies a day and three serials: a crime serial, a Western and an adventure series.

Many will be American serials that have been shown before, as have many movies. But entertainment will be flanked by four 10-minute newscasts a day from a studio run by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.*

PKS and FAZ have agree to contractual terms on the newscast arrangement, while PKS has come to terms with publishers in Mainz, Ludwigshafen and Koblenz on a daily half-hour programme of regional news.

Channel 2 of Ludwigshafen cable TV is partly commercial. EPF, the commercial operator, is owned by *Rheinpfalz,* the local newspaper, and a company run by German newspaper proprietors.

But EPF only produces an hour and a half of programmes. Production manager Dieter Mauer says the aim is to come as close to viewers as possible and aim for quality, even if that means starting in a small way.

The remainder of the channel's broadcasting has been handed over to ZDF, or Channel 2 of Federal Republic TV, which is relaying early programmes late and late programmes early via cable TV. This is not the only instance of a public broadcasting corporation being associated with the cable TV project. *Südwestfunk* is broadcasting its educational programmes on Channel 3.

Channel 4 consists of a ZDF assortment of opera and operetta, classical and popular music, jazz, rock, pop and show band music in a programme of music only.

Director-general Dieter Stolte of ZDF readily explains why his corporation is associated with the pilot project. If media trends are to be to the detriment of public broadcasting corporations, he argues, it is as well to be in there from the outset.

In that way some of the possible detrimental effects may be avoided.

Channel 5 in Ludwigshafen is something entirely new in Germany, the open channel. It is available to anyone who wants to produce and broadcast programmes of his own.

The AKK provides equipment and technical facilities free of charge, with a director and a programme editor on hand to advise beginners.

The AKK will have no influence on programme contents, which will be the broadcasters' responsibility. It will be a kind of CB TV.

Channel 6 will provide information and advice on a wide range of topics by non-commercial organisations such as the Health Education Agency, environmental groups, evening classes, Mainz University and the Roman Catholic wireless service.

Channel 7 will be for individual IPs such as Franz Beckenbauer's Munich company which plans to screen a mixture of sport and commercials.

Another IP will be the Musikbox company, which plans to broadcast hours of rock and pop music interspersed with advertising aimed at young viewers.

Both these companies are keen to corner channels of their own. Channel 8, the Sky Channel, is run by a British operator.

IPs face heavy costs. Twenty per cent of programme time may consist of commercials, but with so few viewers revenue is unlikely to be high.

So the initial outlay will be substantial. The Roman Catholic wireless service expects an hour a week to cost it between DM400,000 and DM600,000 a year.

EPF, with a payroll of 46 and a comfortably equipped studio, expects to spend DM7m this year.

PKS's Jürgen Doetz, with a staff of 25, expects operations to cost about DM200m a year and does not see his company breaking even before 1989.

AKK has an easier time of it. It has been run on borrowed money so far but for the next three years will be financed from a levy on TV licence fees all over the country that will raise DM35m.

Herr Detjen feels that should be enough to cover running costs.

It remains to be seen what effect the project will have on the public broadcasting system. The AKK board and assembly have no authority to interfere with programmes.

The board has three members, appointed along party-political lines. The assembly, with 40 members, consists of representatives of "socially relevant" organisations such as the trade unions and the church.

Both have merely a watchdog role to ensure that general legal provisions are observed. The AKK is basically just a coordinator.

Will there be political clashes such as occur in public broadcasting corporations? Herr Detjen says there won't. He is more worried about ensuring his organisation's survival.

To survive, he says, it will need to stake a claim in satellite TV. This view is shared by many Ludwigshafen IPs who have applied for licences but are not yet using them.

They include the major media companies, so it is more than a pun to say that the future of the Ludwigshafen project is very much in mid-air.

Heinz Verfürth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 December 1983)

■ THE ARTS

Ballet company chief gets the balance just right

Süddeutsche Zeitung

At last year's first premiere, Pina Bausch's Wuppertal ballet company posed for photographers with a placard proclaiming their 10th anniversary.

This year the new general manager of the Wuppertal Opera and Schauspielhaus, Jürgen Fabritius, has chosen to celebrate the company's 10th anniversary again.

Pina Bausch may have been in charge for ten and a half years but she has made the city's name famous, so there can be no harm in labouring the point.

She has succeeded in both using the advantages a municipal theatre has to offer and maintaining her artistic independence.

That is an unusual feat in an operation that consists of opera, ballet and the stage. She has never agreed to work as a choreographer for ballet scenes in Wuppertal opera productions, for instance.

Last season, in a programme entitled *Komm tanz mit mir*, Frau Bausch began to stage again some of her earlier work: a retrospective, as it were.

Her second replay is the staging of an evening of Brecht and Weill first performed in 1976 and beginning with a very distinctive version of the *Seven Deadly Sins of the Petty Bourgeoisie*.

It also features a collage or review entitled *Don't Be Afraid* and consisting of songs from the *Threepenny Opera*, *Happy End*, *Mahagonny* and the *Berlin Requiem*.

It is a clear reminder of the kind of work Pina Bausch used to do. Seven years ago she still concentrated on one composer, one plot and one, or no more than a handful of leading characters.

She was not yet given to dealing with intricate and separate plots and complex relationships such as have marked her more recent work.

Laconic though she may be in conversation, she is radical and eloquent, without being garrulous, in her evening of work by Brecht.

The Seven Deadly Sins is otherwise invariably performed as a teased-out musical, with words and music promising more than is actually seen on the stage.

Frau Bausch has brutally cut the plot down to the tale of Anna and her conflicting traits. The part is danced by the impressive Josephine Ann Endicott and sung by Ann Höling, who sounds a maternal yet harsh note.

Set designer Rolf Borzik marks out a Sun in chalk on the stage. It is an ironic symbol, Anna's life being one in which there is not much sunshine.

She is forced to prostitute herself in a consumption-crazy world, becomes a victim of her grasping family (the stage is gradually filled with the superfluous attributes of bourgeois affluence).

She is consumed by a male society that constantly demands and never gives, and eventually falls victim to herself by forcing herself to accept as her own the greedy wishes of others.

Everyone grabs and tears and tweaks at Anna: lecherous men in dark suits and women dressed as men. Roughly treated, she submits to them, crying defencelessly.

In aggressive batches her torturers march and tramp toward her as a homogeneous group of people, often legging it alarmingly close to the footlights and in a manner designed to strike the audience too as threatening.

Yet Anna doesn't prompt false compassion. She makes you feel angry.

Frau Bausch describes in the second part of the show even more drastically how love can be debased to business. The title, Don't Be Afraid, is pure cynicism. Men and women in cocktail attire or sexy underwear sing of love, Surabaya Johnny, Alabama and Mandalay, while off-stage, as it were, a secondary plot takes its course.

A smarmy tenor played by Erich Leukert makes increasingly blunt approaches to a girl, yet he wears gloves so as not to dirty his hands, singing Don't Be Afraid as he goes about it.

Anna in the Seven Deadly Sins is measured using a tape measure. The girl in Don't Be Afraid is finally raped. When she in turn wants the man she is brusquely rejected.

The struggle between the sexes ends in a very onesided way because, as Pina Bausch sees it, it is governed by conventional bourgeois standards.

Four *femmes fatales* in sexy underwear stretch out voluptuously on furs and try to outdo each other in their display of jealousy, singing "he loves only me."

It is bitter comedy, with Frau Bausch carry on where Ibsen's *Doll's House* leaves off. Ann Höling, for instance, laments that "the sea is so blue, so blue" with increasing fervour against a background of motionless, doll-like girls.

Show items follow child's play. They artists put on make-up, change clothes, rotating narcissistically round a mirror. Each is the best, the dearest, the most beautiful.

Mechthild Grossmann's Bilbao song switches from infectious, hysterical laughter to sudden fright. Sylvia Kesselheim singing Jacob Schmidt pulls a collection of men's shoes on a string behind her. She is a collector of love for sale. Mistinguette is likewise known to have collected her lovers' shoes as sad trophies of cheap adventure.



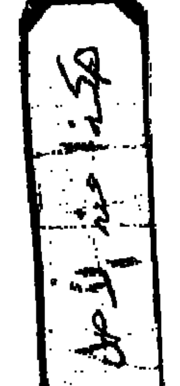
Hans Popp and Josephine Ann Endicott in Pina Bausch's production of 'The Seven Deadly Sins of the Petty Bourgeoisie.' (Photo: Ulli Weiss)

Don't Be Afraid is striking, provocative and spoiled only by Frank Meiswinkel's backstage orchestra from Solingen, which made do with mindless Compapa.

Even so, it gives you gooseflesh, so lasciviously, colourfully and evilly does Pina Bausch put Brecht across.

Eva-Elisabeth Fischer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 December 1983)



Foreigners not waiting in the wings

Amateur dramatics, or the pro-am variety, with the emphasis on plays put on by non-German companies, has been the subject of four years of research at Hamburg University.

Professor Manfred Brauneck and associates have probed theatrical work of a kind that seldom hits the headlines and about which the average theatregoer knows very little.

Their findings on theatrical activities by foreign nationals in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin will thus come as a surprise.

There are well over 100 theatre companies run for and by migrant workers, over half of them Turkish, and Mediterranean nationalities are by no means on their own.

In Cologne there are three separate Indian theatre companies. In Bonn there is an Ethiopian one, in Frankfurt a Vietnamese and Latin American companies in various places.

Few are able to work professionally. Most are limited to amateur dramatics after work. Many companies definitely regard themselves as working class theatre companies.

Few if any have theatres or access to established theatres of their own. They

Continued on page 11

Art sales man does it again: DM5m raised to buy Watteau

Hermann Abs is the man who organised the purchase last December of the Henry the Lion gospels at Sotheby's in London for a record 32 million marks.

The deal, making the gospels the most expensive work of art ever, was put together with a mixture of German bank cash, state funds and public subscription.

It meant that the mediaeval document could be returned to Germany.

Herr Abs now appears to have done it again. He has raised 5 million marks towards the cost of buying the Watteau painting, L'Embarquement pour Cythère, and keeping it in Berlin.

The total sum required is 15 million marks. The other two thirds will be contributed by the city of Berlin and the Federal government in Bonn.

Abs jovially remarked that he would have preferred to have gone rattling the moneybox to get the money before St Nicholas' Day (December 6). But Christmas is a pretty good date too.

His efforts had been made all the more difficult by unnecessary talk and resultant uncertainty about whether the donation campaign would reach its target.

There was a remarkable response to appeals made by Abs from owners of firms directly connected with Berlin, companies with subsidiaries there, and individuals with a "very personal relationship to Berlin".

This made Abs feel all the more convinced that Berlin is not only entitled to claim to be Germany's capital, but provides proof that it is its spiritual capital.

Abs feels that the list of important works of art which must be kept in Germany should be extended.

He thinks governments should do more.

Abs is not worried that vast numbers of works of art "in danger of being exported" will now flood the market.

Even the discussion of a few "envious persons" over the success at the London auction doesn't bother him.

He feels that there is general approval by those "who have a sense of history and a feeling for art".

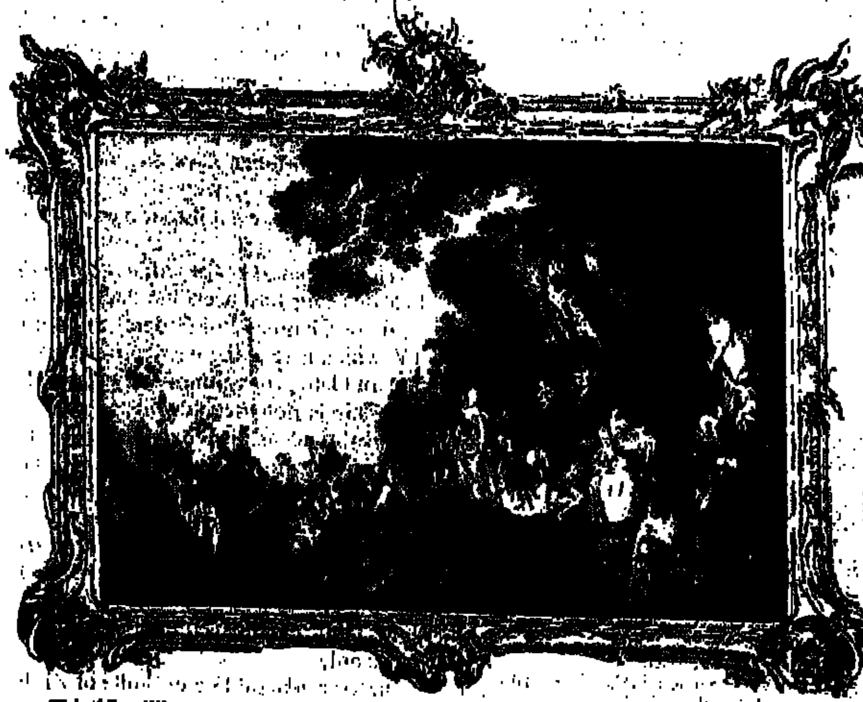
Following his initiatives for the Guelph *Zimelie* and the *Liebesinsel*, Abs is not contemplating further patronly diplomacies:

"I am 83 and I've done my bit. It's up to others now."

However, Hermann Josef Abs is known for his surprises. Particularly at times when art needs his help.

Peter Hans Göpfert

(Die Welt, 28 December 1983)



The 15-million-mark painting ... Watteau's 'L'Embarquement pour Cythère' (Photo: Kunsthalle Hamburg)

■ THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Adolf Loos and the function of function

Kieler Nachrichten

Adolf Loos is better-known to students of modern architecture for his controversial treatise, *Ornament and Crime* than for his architectural achievements.

Again and again, Loos' views have been the subject of heated debate between purists and functionalists on the one hand, and the representatives of an organic building style and conservatives on the other. The latter have been unwillig to acknowledge the dogmatic purism expressed in Loos' writings as an acceptable answer to two-and-a-half millennia of Occidental architecture.

What exactly did Loos say in his notorious article, published in 1908? One of the key sentences in his paper, which was reprinted in Herwarth Waldens' *Sturm*, was: "Today, the ornamentation of things which, thanks to various developments, no longer require ornamentation represents wasted energy and abused material".

Although this doesn't sound as biting as the title, the question must be asked whether "material" (concrete, stone or wood) can at all be "abused" or whether it is such a "crime" to "waste (one's) energy" on ornamentation of such materials.

Whichever the answer, this denunciation of ornamentation caused such a stir that successive generations are somewhat "biased" when they hear the name Loos.

An exhibition of this architect's achievements, illustrated by photos, models and designs, can currently be seen in West Berlin's Academy of Arts.

Entitled *Spatial Designing — Residential Architecture. Adolf Loos 1870 — 1933*, the exhibition commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death of Loos.

It will cause plenty of discussion, which is one of the main intentions of the organisers.

The concept of "spatial design" was created by the Czech architect, Heinrich Kulka, one of Loos' followers. It refers to what Loos tried to put into practice after he had developed a clear idea of his architectural style.

When designing his buildings, Loos, among others, thought in spatial terms. The height of a room, for example, was to be determined by the function of that room. This sounds plausible, for after all, a room which was to be lived in had to be bigger than a larder or a storeroom. Between 1893 and 1896 Loos spent his time taking a closer look at North America. It was here that he discovered his "flowing rooms", which are defined and divided by stairways, galleries, balconies and steps, and which often reveal optical haptic qualities in addition to the purely functional features.

Similar ideas were expressed by Scharoun, Aalto and Le Corbusier, as well as by architects before Loos' time.

However, as opposed to Scharoun, whose interior spatial design becomes externally visible (the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, for example), Loos' interior culd not be recognised on the outside.

The exterior appearance of his buildings is usually marked by a rigid rationality. Inside, Loos' buildings are generally more "homely".

Although the eloquent polemic Loos insisted so intimidatingly on consistency in his theoretical works, his practical achievements are less radical.

A look at his houses and the models reconstructed by students from the Munich Technical University for the Berlin exhibition leaves the beholder slightly disillusioned.

Many of the villas, office buildings and residential dwellings built by Loos seem plain and lacking in sensuality, only "interesting" in a banal sense, to anyone who has seen the works of Scharoun, Frank Lloyd Wright or Aalto.

There must be a reason why posterity mainly remembers Loos for his denunciation of ornamentation rather than for his buildings. He was a verbal radical, moving more with his words than with his deeds.

The exhibition in Berlin perhaps underlines this point more than the organisers would have liked.

Helmut Kotschenreuther

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 December 1983)



Loos' 1923 model of villas with roof gardens. (Photo: catalogue)

A return to clay houses with roofs of grass

DIE WELT

Planners are trying to encourage what they call "ecological building" in an effort to cheaply increase the housing stock.

Housing is a constant problem in German and now there is less money available builders are finding it harder to find work

The ecological system is cheaper and environmentally more acceptable than normal building. It involves the use, for example, of grass roofs and clay instead of brick.

Clay is durable, a good insulator and is much cheaper than brick. Grass roofs provide superb insulation and keep the air clean.

Hamburg planners and architects have met to discuss promoting ecological housing.

And in Kassel, Professor Gernot Minke and his colleagues are working on plans to build ecological housing.

Professor Minke points out that farmhouses in exposed areas of Lower Saxony can cope with the cold without central heating by use of low thatched roofs and protective rows of trees.

Main features of the system are using solar energy, keeping the air, water and ground clean, and saving energy and costs.

Professor Minke says clay is durable. In Freiburg there is a six-storey clay house built in 1828; in Tübingen, a doctor is still living in a clay house built in 1830.

Many clay settlements were built between the First and the Second World Wars, for example in Lübeck.

Clay has always been the building material traditionally used when times get tough.

Only two to five kilowatt hours of energy are needed to produce on cubic metre of clay, as opposed to 1,000 for a cubic metre of solid brick.

Next year, clay will also be used for the eco-settlement in Kassel. Ten houses will be built at the start of the model settlement.

This is "the first development scheme in Germany which has compulsory grass rooves." The green roofs are the second ecological must, for they provide superb insulation, saving energy and keeping the air clean, says Minke.

In a city like Paris, for example, the dangers of smog could be eliminated if five per cent of the roofs were of grass. What is more, grass roofs stored rainwater and relieve the drainage system.

Climbing plants are also to be used in Kassel. They are intended to save energy and renovation costs.

As part of the International Building Fair in Berlin Bengt Warne and Joachim Glässel from Stockholm and Berlin respectively are to be build a special ecology-oriented block of rented flats at the Landwehrkanal.

Warne can look back on many years of experience. In 1976 he built a "nature house" in Stockholm, where he himself lived for five years.

Basically, it is a residential core surrounded by a glass shield, a kind of home in a gigantic greenhouse.

The principle is to be applied to the six to seven-storey house in Berlin, which will only need fifty per cent of the energy generally required.

It will collect be able to minimise the amount of rainwater to drink

Organic refuse will be used in the garden.

The residents themselves are to help implement the project. For this reason, only tenants who have ecological expertise, will be considered.

Gisela Schütte

(Die Welt, 19 December 1983)

Continued from page 10

perform in arts centres, club houses, adult education centres, youth clubs or church halls.

Takings are seldom enough to cover costs. Subsidies are to all intents and purposes not available. So costs are kept to a minimum.

Due arguably in part to this state of affairs, fluctuation is enormous. Very few groups stay together for more than a season or two.

The oldest company is a Spanish group in Hanover, the Teatro Populare, which performs one play and two pantomimes a year.

It gives guest performances in other German cities and abroad and runs virtually unaided by the taxpayer.

The situation is better in Berlin, the city with the largest number of foreign residents in the country. Two of Berlin's Turkish theatre companies are fully professional.

One is a unit of the Schaubühne and is subsidised by the city council, which has a DM300,000 budget to support amateur and semi-professional dramatics.

Berlin, unlike the rest of the country, has a small professional arts scene run mostly by Turks, including Turkish publishing houses, for instance.

Professor Brauneck's findings, presented at the Protestant Church Academy in Hamburg, were discussed at length, mainly by foreign residents.

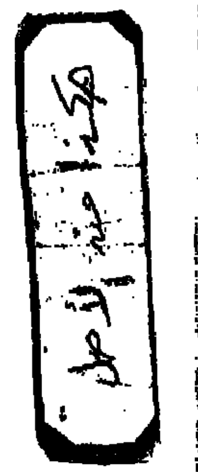
They lamented the vicious circle resulting from the need to bear in mind the cultural needs, customs and problems of their own nationals and the ghetto-like existence which left them with so little opportunity of building bridges between cultures.

German municipal theatres came in for criticism (including the Schaubühne in Berlin). None, it was said, had yet hit on the idea of staging a Turkish play for a German public to promote understanding and communication.

The Schaubühne's Turkish company was said to be a mere fig-leaf. "Germany," complained Turkish writer Dr Pazarkaya, "has become an extremely barren soil for foreign authors."

Werner Schulze-Reimpell

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 27 December 1983)



■ MUSEUMS

Transport and technology site picked out

Berlin has ambitious plans to set up a Museum of Transport and Technology on a site in the city-centre borough of Kreuzberg.

Part has now been opened in a disused ice works on Trebbiner Strasse that is envisaged as a section of a 15-acre site on which the museum will take shape.

It will comprise large halls, a biotope, a windmill, aircraft hangars and a bucketwheel dredger on show in the open air.

The section now open covers only about 10 per cent of the total floor space planned and, as the museum's Maria Borgmann explains, is still in its early stages:

"We have deliberately run the risk of opening while still incomplete. Visitors are to be enabled to see for themselves how the museum grows."

There is already much to see in the restored redbrick building, especially when the old steam engine is at work on the ground floor.

Via leather transmission units it works a variety of tools: lathes, a drilling machine and a steel plane.

In the physics department visitors can try out for themselves basic scientific experiments that help them to get a clearer idea of the basic laws that govern nature.

These do-it-yourself experiments are particularly suggestive of comparison with the Deutsches Museum in Munich. Professor Günther Gottmann, founder director of the Berlin museum and for many years assistant curator of the Deutsches Museum, has this to say:

"The Deutsches Museum, in addition to its scientific claims, is an exhbition of scientific and technological masterpieces. "Here in Berlin we want to feature the everyday world of technology."

The city has a longstanding tradition of technological museums. Berlin has had technical collections and museums for 400 years.

The best-known was probably the Urania institute of scientific and technological education, set up in 1899, and the idea of keeping up the tradition is nothing new.

There has long been an association to set up a transport museum. But the new museum has much more ambitious plans. More is envisaged than a chronological review of progress in various transport sectors.

"What we want," says Frau Borgmann, "is to show what links there were and are between technology and cultural and social history."

The automobile section, for instance, contains more than a few veteran cars such as an imitation of a 100-year-old de Dion-Bouton steam car.

There is also an audiovisual show that outlines the effect of motor traffic on the environment.

The data processing section similarly deals at length with the problems of data protection.

But such points can be no more than a step in the direction of the ambitious aim of demonstrating the effect of technology on society.

A number of large exhibits are on show in the entrance hall. They include a replica of Otto Lilienthal's glider, a number of old cars and even an up-to-the-minute Audi Quattro.

The printing department is another showpiece of the museum. It too features technology you can feel and touch, with arrangements for trades college classes to learn some of the printer's art.

Professor Gottmann says the museum aims to underline local links, but there will be no local patriotism:

"Berlin has always made technological history with an influence extending well beyond the borders of Germany."

Horst Rademacher

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 December 1983)

Berlin museum gets on the road (Photo: Rademacher)

Silver gilt trumpets and Chinese clappers hit the high notes

The world's largest and most valuable collection of historic musical instruments has been opened at Munich's Stadtmuseum.

The 2,700 exhibits range from diminutive Chinese clappers to a man-sized double bass recorder. Some can even be played, although not by just any visitor.

Curator Manfred Schmid plans to concentrate on concerts and video demonstrations.

Once a day the world's largest surviving orchestrion is played. It is a musical monster consisting of three sets of clockwork, 338 pipes in eight registers, a big drum, a small drum, cymbals, a triangle and seven moving model hussars. It has a chequered past. It was made in Villingen in the Black Forest in about 1880. At the turn of the century it was the attraction on board a Danube steamer. It found its way to Munich in 1960, from Deggendorf which tried in vain to get it back 20 years later. An instrument collector in Baden-Baden then wanted to swap the orchestrion for an old scale model of Munich, his native city. This move was foiled with difficulty.



Sounds for all seasons ... musical instruments museum in Munich. (Photo: Thomas Stankiewitz)

The unmanned orchestra was worth about DM 150,000 by this time. It has since been fully restored and put back in working order.

The new "museum in a museum" consists of mainly exotic instruments bequeathed to the city in 1940, plus exhibits from the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum that mainly document European music history.

The Nationalmuseum has no room for them. The entire collection consists of roughly 9,000 items and a specialist library of 3,000 books.

The oldest exhibits include an Amati violin made in about 1600 and a Klotz viola dated 1792.

The violin may have retained its original shape but there have been many string variations of which some only survive in collections such as these.

Twelve silver gilt trumpets made for Electoral Prince Max Emanuel are from the Munich court orchestra, as is a bass trombone Wagner had made for the Munich production of the Ring cycle.

They bear the initials of Ludwig II, the Bavarian king who was Wagner's friend and patron.

The Bavarian state collection of musical instruments was first catalogued [illegible] years ago by Karl August Bierdimpfl, a minor official at the Bavarian supreme appeals court.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 29 December 1983)

■ HEALTH

Drug, drink cure attempts not futile, says doctor

Frankfurter Rundschau

A German specialist disagrees with the widely held view that trying to cure drug addicts and alcoholics is a waste of time and money.

He is the head of the Homburg nervous diseases clinic, Professor Klaus Wanke. The clinic forms part of Saarbrücken University Hospital.

Attempts to rehabilitate junkies and alcoholics are not doomed to failure, he says.

"The results of therapy are much better than is generally assumed," he told a conference held at the German Judges' Academy in Trier.

He had found about 30 per cent of patients who used to be addicted to opiates or combinations of drugs stayed clean after therapy.

The success rate was even higher for alcoholics. "After up to four years of after-care about two thirds of male and half of female alcoholics were still dry."

Professor Wanke set up the first drug addiction advisory centre in the country: in Frankfurt am Main in 1967.

"Reports that 98 per cent of heroin addicts fail to stay clean have never been proven," he said.

Eighty judges and public prosecutors attended the Trier conference, comparing notes on how the 1981 Narcotics Act was working.

New provisions in the Act include an option of turning state's evidence and giving suspended sentences in connection with drug offences.

Hamburg public prosecutor Martin Slotty said views expressed so far ranged from approval to rejection.

The state's evidence provision whereby a court could reduce or waive a sentence if the accused helped the authorities over and above pleading guilty had improved the conviction rate, he said.

But problems unquestionably arose. Innocent parties could be incriminated by false allegations made for self-seeking reasons.

Once the case involving the accused was over, people who turned state's evidence had tended to show a marked reluctance to cooperate any further with the authorities.

Other provisions were said to be unclear, particularly in respect of the ban on growing hemp or poppy plants.

Cases had occurred in which unsuspecting allotment-holders had been prosecuted for growing cannabis plants in their flower beds. Was there not a case for arguing that the law was unrealistic on this point?

What view was to be taken of the sale of poppy capsules that could be used to make flower arrangements or to make a narcotic brew?

Were journalists guilty of an offence when they mentioned the name of a bar or disco where drugs were peddled in an article on the narcotics scene?

Were they inciting others to commit a criminal offence? The law often failed to give answers to queries of this kind.

Referring to the social significance of drug taking, Professor Wanke said there were roughly 60,000 users of hard drugs in the Federal Republic of Germany.

An estimated 200,000 to 400,000 people were addicted to patent medicines and between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000 people were alcoholics.

"Successful cases of therapy," he said, "must not be allowed to distract attention from the fact that a high percentage of addicts never go in for treatment.

We can't reach many people who aren't interested in therapy because they are too seriously addicted to want help." Advice centres reached about 20 per cent of drug users.

Self-help groups played an important part in after-care of alcoholics, but ex-junkies could hardly be used to help others to break the habit.

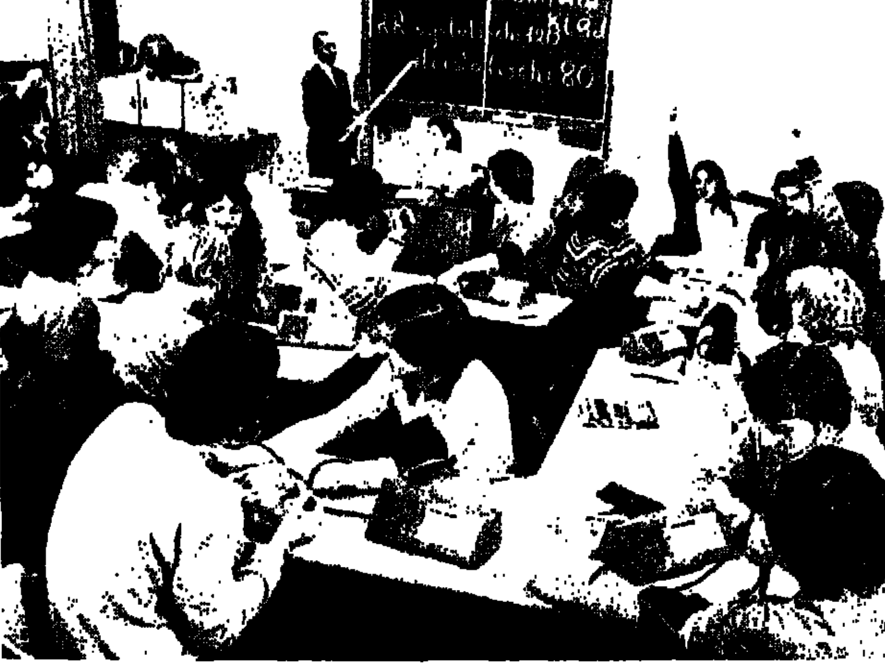
"They are understandably and justifiably reeluctant to have anything more to do with the scene," he said.

Children and young people should be helped to steer clear of drugs at as early an age as possible, preferably before the age of 12, he felt.

He called on judges and public prosecutors, parents, schools and groups to jointly tackle the drug problem. It could not be dealt with administratively.

Gerd Braune

(Frankurter Rundschau, 30 December 1983)



Getting blooded

Heidelberg pupils check their blood pressure as part of a World Health Organisation project to establish young cases of high blood pressure. In later life high blood pressure can lead to cardiac and circulatory complaints. (Photo: AP)

Career musicians are prone to stress-related illness

Career musicians are strongly affected by stress. Many become ill because of it.

During a concert, it is not only the conductor who loses weight, whose pulse races at twice the normal rate or whose blood pressure increases 50 per cent (Herbert von Karajan's blood pressure rises from 120 to 180 during a performance).

Every member of the orchestra reacts in much the same way to the physical and mental pressures. Increasing numbers of musicians suffer from heart and circulation conditions.

Physical and mental demands on musicians are higher than on most other people, says R. D. Berensmann of the German society for the promotion of medical diagnosis.

He told the *Medica* congress in Düsseldorf that one reason was the prolonged and extreme concentration required. In addition, the greatest effort was demanded in the evening when the biological rhythm was in an inactive phase.

Musicians, he said, lived under night-shift conditions. They tended to suffer from stress-related conditions such as ulcers of the stomach or bowel.

Medical findings so far in Germany are preliminary. No one knows yet more accurately how performing musically leads to stress or what can be done to prevent it.

Doctors have barely touched on the subject. Their training does not deal with it.

The value of music as a therapy has been recognised for a long time. The private Herdecke University even offers a course in it.

But until now the problems of health risk to people in careers involving music have been limited to ballet dancing.

Priority has been given to treating joints and muscles. This was also a field also widely dealt in sports medicine.

One factor that has prompted a greater medical interest in music careers and illness is the advent of the electronic amplifier, particularly in rock and pop music, and the resultant damage to hearing.

But the ailments go further than ulcers and deafness. Singers, for example, like actors, get voice problems, wind instrumentalists have problems with teeth and jaw, string instrumentalists get skin problems.

Violinists are prone to violinists chin, an allergy against rosewood. Sprays and makeup can cause allergies. Sprays can cause bronchial problems.

Guitarists get tendon inflammation, digestive problems and constipation. Cellists often get inflamed testicles. Organists are prone to enlargement of the pelvic joints.

J. S. Bach is said to have developed protruberances around the posterior area because of the constant sitting.

Berensmann and E. Fromm, of Hamburg, are planning more research into complaints suffered by actors, musicians and dancers.

An exchange of ideas with a work group in Dresden, in East Germany, should go a long way to help. At a college in Dresden, music and theatre medicine has for a long time been integrated into research and teaching programmes.

Anna-Lise Hans

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 December 1983)

Inventions keep the disabled on the move

A swivelling chair has been developed to help physically handicapped people sail in greater comfort. It means that they can adjust their body depending on the direction of the wind.

An organisation called Service Ring Berlin aims to publicise devices that are available for handicapped people and to encourage the development of equipment:

It has arranged a competition. "They don't need to be highly complicated pieces of equipment", says the organisation coordinator, Jörg-Berndt Jungmann.

People sometimes discovered in their own area of specialisation a simple machine that managed to make life easier for a handicapped person.

Help and advice was available from the association of inventors over, for example, patent rights or how to approach firms.

Service Ring is to be allowed, free of charge, to exhibit a selection of recently developed aids for the handicapped at an inventors' fair in Nuremberg.

One example of ingenuity that has come to light is that of a nurse who works with dumb patients. She designed a drawing board containing a series of key words. Users are able to elaborate by pointing out the words. Part of the board is left free for writing with chalk.

An engineer sufferer from multiple sclerosis has designed a device which enables him to lift both himself and his wheelchair into his car.

A therapist has designed a collar which holds the telephone handpiece, thus leaving the hands free.

An electric propulsion apparatus for a wheelchair is almost ready for the production line. It can be attached to any folding wheelchair.

Its advantage is lightness and lack of bulk which means that both it and chair can be carried in the car boot.

The competition is open to the end of June, but the Service Ring service is intended to be a permanent one.

Jungmann says there are specific demands for items not invented. One is for an electric plug so strongly fixed to the cord that when the plug is jerked out of the socket with a pull of the cord it doesn't break.

He says it is often difficult, not only for paraplegics but also for older people, to reach up or down to pull out plugs.

Another item in demand is a pair of tongs to pick things off the floor. Often, grill tongs and the like are used, But they are not usually satisfactory.

Birgit Loff

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 December 1983)